

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

Maclean's

April 24, 2000 www.macleans.ca

STOCKS: What the big players are doing

VIETNAM: 25 years after the war, why some draft dodgers stayed in Canada

GARDENS: The growing trend to native plants

Rave Fever

Kids love those
all-night parties, but
the drugs can kill

What parents need
to know



\$4.50



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From the Editor

Linking the magazine and the Net

It is an indication of the pace of the digital revolution that it was only five years ago that *Maclean's* became the first Canadian news publication available to a worldwide audience on CompuServe, now part of America Online. The next year, *Maclean's* moved over to the World Wide Web of the Internet. Last year, we were the first Canadian magazine—and one of the first in North America—to offer real-time online service to readers. And last week, we took another important step by appointing a senior editorial hand, Anthony Wilson-Smith, to be director of online services.

While he will continue to write his weekly national affairs column and supervise the front-Overseas section, Wilson-Smith also will be responsible for expanding and enhancing the Web site (www.macleans.com). The appointment recognizes the need for a day-to-day champion for Web developments in the magazine's brief.

Maclean's has always strived to hold a mirror up to the country—and the online efforts will reflect the same values. Says Wilson-Smith: "In addition to offering *Maclean's* regular content, we aim to make this a site where Canadians can meet, grow and exchange ideas with and about each other."

Wilson-Smith has wide experience as



a journalist, having served as Quebec and Ottawa editor and the magazine's first Moscow bureau chief. Wilson-Smith's deputy is Online Editor Bob Scott, who has been aboard since the CompuServe launch and has guided our recent expansion in the Montreal area. Scott has also reported for the print edition, notably the court story on the Internet underground last fall. The ability to work in both media is a necessary fit in an age when the Internet is becoming part of everyday life.



Wilson-Smith

Maclean's writers received welcome recognition last week. The Canadian Association of Journalists gave its annual investigative journalism award to the magazine category to Tara Fennell



and Chris Wood for their report on "The human smugglers" in the Nov. 22, 1999 issue. The award, citing "the best investigative journalism across the country," also recognized work by the CBC's *National Post*, *Ottawa Citizen* and *The Globe and Mail*. The article, part of a package developed by five *Maclean's* contributors working on two assignments and edited by Assistant Managing Editor Bertram Woodhead, explored how Chinese migrants were being spirited into the United States through the Albanian route in Ontario. The other leads—an honorable mention at the Audience Council; rig, *Sevenson Waring Awards*; write to Kimberly Noble for "Empire builders," her profile of Frank Stronach in the March 29, 1999 issue. Both are posted at www.macleans.com along with links and background on other awards, which ensure the range of the online issue. One of the joys of Internet publishing is that there is no page limit.

Robert Lewis

response@maclean.com to comments on From the Editor

Newsroom Notes On the rave beat

Maclean's Associate Editor Simon Chi was no stranger to rave when she began to research this week's cover story (page 30). In Hong Kong, where Chi worked as a freelance journalist from 1996 to 1998, she attended a dozen of

the all-night parties—including a 1997 "Upsy" rave, featuring Boy George and Grace Jones, that helped to mark the onset of the century in China.

In Toronto, Chi attended six raves as part of her research for the cover package. She also talked to parents, police and experts about the powerful drugs that are blamed for a growing number of rave-related deaths. "The deaths are certainly tragic and understandably

being a lot of negative public emotion to the rave phenomenon," says Chi, 28. "But people do tend to forget what it's like to be a teenager, and that every youth movement has its casualties, its preferences, its likes. Many rave kids have a really positive value system."

The cover package was edited by Entertainment Editor Patricia Hodge and designed by Associate Art Director Ginelle Sabourin.



The Mail

The Sudan issue

Bravo on a tremendous article ("Facing the demons of Sudan," *Covea*, April 10). It's marvelous to see the work that can be done by two individuals—Jane Roy and Glen Pearson are true ambassadors for Canada. The Canadian government and the oil company Talisman



Roy (left), Pearson: true ambassadors

Energy Inc. could take a lesson. Will we continue to turn a blind eye and wait for someone else to make the first move? Will we call up with another Rwanda? The United Nations and the Canadian government cannot stand by and let this situation continue.

Betty L. Gauthier, Ottawa

I am disgusted but not surprised by your article. As stated, slavery has been a cancer in the bowels of humanity, vir-

ually since Day 1. The demon of organizations such as World Vision is most unfortunate. The actions of UNICEF and the United Nations in condemning what seems to be the only group of people doing something concrete to free the victims is confusing. The Canadian people and their colleagues should be given our highest praise. I would recommend them for the role Citizens of the World!

W. J. Sullivan, Prince George, B.C.

What a mix of feelings is produced by your story. First, the anguish at seeing how people are treated in war, the horror. Then the anger and sadness, knowing that a Canadian company, Talisman Energy, may be contributing to Sudan's use of its natural resources to equip soldiers via the world arms market in order to maintain the war. These resources should be used to improve the lives of Sudanese people. But finally, the joy of realizing that two Canadians are willing to make a difference, though controversial, to reduce the slavery, not by armed intervention, but with active love. The way of Roy and Pearson represents the only means to defeat war.

Monroe G. Lumley, Amherst, Ont.

You presented a very Canadian and humanitarian perspective on the often muddy issue of atrocities in Sudan. I find it appalling that, despite all the evidence and recent media coverage on the issue of the Talisman oil company funding Sudan's civil war, the Canadian government denies the existence of this issue by not acting in the way the people would want. It demonstrates this issue because it has a vested interest in the success of Talisman's extraction of oil. It is critical that the Sudan issue does not disappear as a result of a lack of media coverage. Articles such as

'Giggles and snorts'

As usual, I opened the back cover flur, but it was several minutes before I could get on with reading.

Roy Peterson's cartoon of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza jumped out at me to elicit a huge belly laugh, and then evoked giggles and snorts as my eye took in each splendidly rendered detail.

("Losing the language books," Allan Fotheringham, April 10). Roy's interpretations are always fun and apt, this one especially so.

Peggy Porter, Duncan, B.C.



your keep Canadians informed and aware of the atrocities their own government is indirectly participating in.

Patricia Lane, Toronto

Without a conflict

Your book excerpt titled "When money meets politics" (April 10) refers to "a powerful assemblage of influence... decisions, making the fight against new health measures easier," and in the next breath, says "Treasury Board president Lucienne Robitaille's riding a St-Henri/Westmount, where

Correction

An excerpt from the book *Gasbag* by Aaron Freeman, published in the April 10 issue, identified Bruce Munlock as a lobbyist for the tobacco industry. Mr. Munlock advised he has never represented the tobacco industry. He was registered as a lobbyist for Inasco Ltd., from January, 1998 to February, 1999, but his work was for Canada Trust, an Inasco subsidiary, and related to financial institutions issues only. It did not involve the tobacco business. *Munlock* regrets the error.



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Simon W. Pickett, Director

Maybe you adults buy Beanie Babies in order to make money ("Getting rich on old hush," *Oz* magazine, April 1995, but we kids buy them because we like them. I'm glad I'm a kid.

Medusa von Gooch, London, Ont.

Harris Like Donne Francis for drawing attention to the issue of dental depression, I (Depression can strike anyone) (April 1991). How unfortunate that the psychiatrists' errors and omissions in her column (if you took her article at face value you would wrongly conclude that psychological and social factors play no role in depression). Further, you would wrongly conclude that medicine from psychiatrists possessing drug therapy there is little else to be done. Both conclusions are far from the truth. Francis also makes errors of fact. For example, serotonin is not an enzyme, but a neurotransmitter. Depression is an

Keith Dobson, Professor of Psychology and Director of Clinical Psychology, University of Calgary, Calgary

Jon Mullins, Editor

Have regard on nature reserves (don't look at Mickey Mantle's "Canada, April 10), it made me wish I was more Canadian. I know about this guy Canada's inequality. Having grown up loving the "bad urban snare" of golf, I have accepted that, to oppose the wrongdoers of our early nation, we will pay; our children will pay; our grandchildren will pay. Billions of dollars, we finally get the figures and learn some of the consequences of this national debt, and not from so-called federal representatives, but from our Midwest. I weep for those generations who have paid this ongoing bill in good faith. I weep for those who opposed it, being given what is right, feel their loss, as we now learn, are watching their leaders use it for their own purposes. Where are the leaders who will let nature people be Canadian, equal in responsibility and in love?

Orville Bell, Winnetka, Ill.

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how it is that the price of gasoline goes up most long-weekend Fridays and down on the Tuesday. Why does the fuel in the underground tank cost more each week when it is the same fuel as you down there a week ago?

Why haven't consumers changed their vehicle purchases? Well, relative to the price of a vehicle, fuel costs are relatively minor today. The average transaction price of a vehicle during 1999 was just under \$20,000 and a sport utility in your driveway would have cost closer to \$40,000. For one of those full-sized, V-8 sport utility vehicles, even with higher fuel prices, the annual cost of gasoline would be under \$2,000 or about five per cent of the cost of the vehicle. It costs about \$8 or \$9 more per week to operate your sport utility today than a year ago. Although consumers may be upset over higher gas prices, they may not understand how fuel price is determined.

FUEL COSTS FOR A TYPICAL SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE

ESTIMATED FUEL PRICE	\$16.00/GAL.
ESTIMATED FUEL TANK	20.00/GAL.
FUEL CONSUMPTION	14.5 L/100 KM IN CITY - 30% OF DRIVING
	10.5 L/100 KM HIGHWAY - 40% OF DRIVING
ESTIMATED FUEL PRICE	
1 YEAR AGO	\$14.00
1 YEAR AGO	\$14.00
FUEL COSTS TODAY	
PER WEEK	\$10.00
PER YEAR	\$520.00
FUEL COSTS ONE YEAR AGO	
PER WEEK	\$8.00
PER YEAR	\$416.00

And although they may not like the cost of fuel, they are not likely to abandon a \$40,000 purchase because of \$8 per week.

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for itself.

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Impreza, the only car to win the 1995, 1996 and 1997 World Rally.

as well as a lower center of gravity which improves the vehicle's balance and stability when cornering. This feature allows the driver more control of the vehicle.

ACTIVE AVOIDANCE

As well as the boxer engine and All-wheel Drive, Subaru also offers rack and pinion steering and 4-wheel independent suspension to ensure precise handling as well as a comfortable ride. And while most manu-

facturers offer 2 or 3-channel anti-lock braking (ABS) Subaru offers a more sophisticated 4-sensor, 4-channel ABS system. To prevent wheel lock-up even under hard braking conditions. This allows the driver to maintain both traction and steering control in all weather conditions and helpfully be able to avoid involvement in an accident. All Subaru performance features and components are designed with this view in mind.

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AN INTERESTING STATISTIC: 10 SECONDS OF IDLING USES UP MORE GAS THAN SHUTTING THE ENGINE OFF AND RESTARTING IT.

more air to the engine, increasing combustion efficiency and fuel economy. Before making any

modifications, however, make sure that any changes do not affect your vehicle warranty and that they do not contravene environmental requirements.

You can also improve the efficiency of the engine by using higher-performance spark plugs, low resistance spark plug wires, and a higher efficiency ignition coil. Again, check if there are any warranty restrictions to changes you might want to make.

While doing research on this topic, I came across some excellent tips on improving fuel efficiency from the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA). One of their first suggestions was to shop around and patronize gasoline stations that offer lower prices. A very logical suggestion, but something that many consumers do not do.

The CAA also notes that many consumers buy premium or high-octane gasoline on the assumption that it is better for their cars. However, high-octane gas is not really of benefit unless your vehicle's engine was designed for it. High-octane gas is produced for a specific vehicle market niche. Check your manual to see if you really need high-octane fuel.

You can also save gas by not allowing your car to idle unnecessarily.

On warm days, for example, you can just start up the vehicle and go. An interesting statistic: 10 seconds of idling uses up more gas than shutting the engine off and restarting it.

You can save about five per cent in fuel consumption just by having your tires inflated to the recommended pressure. Tires that are under-inflated produce more drag or friction and thereby increase fuel consumption.

By keeping your vehicle well tuned, you can save considerably on

only a fuel economy factor but also a safety issue.

Driving habits can also affect fuel consumption. Go easy on the brake, advises the CAA. By maintaining a good buffer zone between your vehicle and the one ahead of you on the highway, for example, you will reduce the need for dramatic braking. Gently applying the brake can improve gas mileage by up to 25 per cent.

Also, try to limit the use of your air conditioner. The use of the air



fuel costs. Your car should be completely serviced each spring and fall and you should follow the tune-up schedule recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. A poorly maintained vehicle can consume up to 35 per cent more fuel than a properly tuned vehicle. A clogged air filter, for example, can reduce fuel efficiency by as much as 10 per cent. You should also change the oil and oil filter regularly as well as making sure that any oil or gas leaks are repaired immediately. This is not

conditioner increases fuel consumption because your engine has to work harder to run the air conditioning unit. For city driving, use of the air conditioner can increase fuel consumption by 10 per cent according to the CAA.

Finally, make sure that you monitor your gas mileage, or fuel consumption and keep records. If there is a sudden change in fuel consumption, your vehicle may have a mechanical problem or it may need a tune up.

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Overture

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
With Shanda Daniel

It Takes a Village (People)

A straight road to gay stardom

Members of **The Village People** never tire of singing their hit songs, *YMCA*, *In the Navy*, *Made in USA* and *Go West*, but they do get sick of questions about their sexual orientation. "It's been 20 years of the same questions," says David Hodo, the construction worker. "Our sexual orientation is the least interesting thing about us." Some may disagree. Of the original members only one, **Edgie Rose** (the Puerto Rican Indian), was openly gay; others kept their heterosexual status in the closet. **Vicente Wills**, costume lead singer and policeman figure, fathered five children out of wedlock and was jailed for rape. Now, three original members—Hodo, Rose and **Alexanderinsky** (the soldier)—and three longtime replacements—**Raymond Simpson** (the policeman), **Jeff Olson** (the cowboy) and **Eric Arnould** (the boxer)—tour full time and are working on original material. On April 23, they will perform in Toronto at *Fashion Goes*, a fashion show and charity banquet for the AIDS Committee of Toronto, along with Canada's Deborah Cox, and Lars Fiksen and hip-hop artist, Lil' Kim (www.fashiongoes.com).

Over and Under Achievers

Next: the PM bombs (in) Iraq!

Scoop: PM's unique peace plan? Hokey's phony war? Hollywood bays and quays?

- ♦ **Stock market:** Tanking. But at least cabbies stop giving stock tips.
- ♦ **Toronto, Ottawa hockey winters:** Slog each other to hype Leafs-Sens playoff series. Not to worry: rest of country ditches bad times.
- ♦ **Charlton Heston:** Aging Moses lectures Canadians on evils of gun control. Sney, Chuck, have you tried parking those tables here?
- ♦ **Allegedly ousted ex-film star:** Don Lancaster, *Grease* Garbo and *Richard Burton*. Now suggestions that each had gay fixings. All together, now: "No one there's anything wrong with that."
- ♦ **Jon Chrétien:** Four puffs in four days in Middle East make for rare tawny: Israeli, Palestinian and Syrians are all ticked off!
- ♦ **Joe Clarke:** PM's performance equals his infamous *Lost Luggage*. "No foray to same area. But defections to Canadian Alliance may make Clarke first leader to have his party resign from here."
- ♦ **Tom Laing:** Alliance hopeful tops media buzz. Next, we crash him for (never meet here)!!



Tip Checks

'You dirty ditch!'

Tired of turning the air blue with your vocabulary every time things go wrong? *Can Control: The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cursing*, by **James V. O'Connor** offers creative alternatives. If you don't know the offending word or phrase replaced in these examples, don't ask.

Option 1: word replacements
"He has (bracia) for hours."
"She doesn't know (grinola) from Shazola."

Option 2: rephrasing
Instead of: "It's not my #@%&* job."
Use: "I wasn't involved in that."
Instead of: "No #@%&@# way."
Use: "I'm not certain that is feasible."

Once over

Burst pipes and cottage gripes



No matter how business your cottage, you must take care of it

a plumber there is one at a burst pipe; otherwise, it could be five days before a plumber is available. A lot of cottages pull water from the lake; check the intake valve to ensure it's free of debris. The sewage system depends

If you're about to rent your cottage, and not sure what you'll find—as should look for—Mike Lane of Escape Home and Cottage Inspections in Bowdler, Ont., offers their checklist for sure-of-success cottage opening.

Check places where water drains the basement, flowing toward chimney and plumbing vent rods. Check if roof or water damaged electrical wiring. Squirrels and raccoons make their home in floor joists. Have

it see. If you have a party of 10 every weekend, you need your septic tank pumped yearly. But if you have a couple of children and a septic tank no more than 25 years old, once every three years should do. Run water. If you get backup or gurgling, it may need pumping, or the field where everything is drained may be clogged with roots, rocks and debris. Do nothing, painting and staining at the start of the season; work in the fall may be ruined by temperature change.

Health check

Sick and tired... of our medicare

Talk about *Home Canada*: Americans in the northern United States have been bombarded since late March with scary-sounding radio and TV ads that paint Canada's health-care system as a patient's nightmare. The TV version shows an anxious older woman riding a bus along a lonely road, a cottage from Canadian medicare. "We're all tired of seeing going to Canada for their medicare," an announcer intones. "But have you heard about



U.S. all take run America and go south

their government-controlled health system is in crisis. Yet some politicians want to import Canada's government controls to America. Help Congress say "No thanks!"

The ad is the work of Citizens for Better Medicine, a coalition that includes the trade association representing the big U.S. drugmakers. High prices paid by the insurer for prescription drugs (often double the Canadian) are a hot political issue. Even some Republicans are calling for lower prices, and drug companies are feeling the heat. The coalition work continues it, but sources say the campaign cost a cool \$1 million (U.S.).

Andrew Phillips

Overbites

"We don't do this for the veterans with the medals. We do this for those young friends of ours who also earned medals, but never lived to wear them."

—Second World War veteran **Barney Danson** launches campaign to rebuild and expand National War Museum

"We are excited and confident, whether or not we are in line with some expectations."

—**James Dolan**, co-CEO of **Waterloo Ont.-based Research in Motion Ltd.**, after company's value fell \$3.6 billion and 44 per cent in a day

"It seems funny to me. How '80s'd things can be. Every once I get ahead I feel more dead."

—Lyrics for **Dead** by heavy metal band **Rain**. Due to producing error, **Carole Kinn** has received **Rain's** disc last week in place of her new CD, **All the Way**. *A Decade of Song*

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Overture

PASSAGES

Awarded: Edmonson author Stacy Schiff won the Pulitzer Prize for her biography, *Vlad: The Secret Life of Vladimir Nabokov*.



The Story of a Marriage after subject was the wife of Vladimir Nabokov, Russian-born author of . The Massachusetts-born former New York book editor has been bedridden due to a difficult pregnancy and was not even aware she had been nominated. In 1995, her first book, *Sarah's Story: A Biography*, also received a Pulitzer nomination. Schiff is married to a Canadian, developer Marc de la Bruyère, and writes for their Edmonson farmhouse, but still spends part of the year in New York City.

Woo: Genevieve Jeanson of Lachine, Que., 18, won the World Cup road-cycling race in Huy, Belgium—then racing the Olympic qualifying standard for this year's Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. Jeanson was last year's world junior champion, she has since moved into senior competition and is tied for second in the World Cup standings. She is also a recipient of the YTV Achievement Award in sports.

Died: Manitoba-born Max Webb, 96, was a member of the Edmonson Grade, a world-champion basketball team. Webb was on the 1938 squad if not for all challenges and participated in that year's Olympic exhibition games in Amsterdam. She is remembered by fellow team-mate Margaret Vachon for being short but fast on the floor. The Grade disbanded because of the Second World War, but their beloved coach J. Perry Page went on to lead the Togoanese Conservative Party in Alberta. Webb lived in Edmonton after suffering a stroke, she spent the past three years confined to her bed.

Died: Actor Larry Linville, 66, played neurotic M.D. Frank Burns on the long-

running TV series *MASH*. The show, which also starred Alan Alda, Wayne Rogers and Gary Burghoff, was a spin-off of the Oscar-winning movie of the same name. Linville, a native of Ojai, Calif., had been suffering from lung cancer and died in a New York hospital of pneumonia.

Named: American-born Sir William Via Home, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the man Sir John A. Macdonald called "a sharp knife," was voted most important Canadian business leader of the 19th century. A panel of judges assembled by the Canadian Business Hall of Fame chose Via Home, who led the effort for Canada's first transcontinental railway, even though he wasn't Canadian and retired in 1899.

Awarded: Dr. Jack Hirsch of Hamilton's McMaster University and Dr. Raboon G. Bender of New York's Rockefeller University received the Canadian Graduate Foundation International Awards for Achievement in Medical Science. Of the 256 past recipients of the award, 52 have gone on to win the Nobel Prize. Hirsch is recognized for his pioneering in the diagnosis of thromboembolic disorders and Bender for his work in the testing of genetic information.

Awarded: Jeffrey Moore of Montreal has won the Commonwealth Writers first book prize for his novel *Prophet in a Red Star*. He is the fourth successive Canadian to win the prize valued at approximately \$6,900. The \$25,000 Commonwealth prize for best book went to South Africa's J. M. Coetzee, for his Booker Prize-winning novel *Disgrace*.

Died: Hungarian-born publisher Andre Deutsch, 82, made his career breakthrough with Norman Mailer's 1949 war novel, *The Naked and the Dead*. He also had success publishing George Michael's tales on the English, *Almeida*, and the story of a famous German diplomat called the *Van Agnew Memoirs*. Later in his career, he published fiction and memoirs by such authors as Laurie Lee and Mordecai Richler.



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Rima Kar

Sleepless in cyberspace

In the early 1990s, just before the onslaught of e-mail, *Canadian* author Nick Bannock's best-selling trilogy *Griffin* and *Solow* depicted a collection of fictional letters between two strangers. They find postal romance through mysterious, cryptic letters, then declare their love—without ever meeting.

Bannock's theme resonates in a time when instant and sustaining romantic connections seems increasingly difficult. In a world in which career-driven young adults lead constantly nomadic lives, looking for a paramour is increasingly onerous. I take this to the reason twenty-somethings have begun dating in cyberspace—seeking love on the Net.

I had ignored the whole phenomenon of chat rooms until last year, when I was compelled to explore the world of virtual communication for a college class. I punched in the key words "chat room," picked a luscious handle (chat room nickname) and found myself in the addictive world of cyber-socializing.

Of course, I was wary of the creeps who are able to hide behind the anonymity of a computer screen. So I was surprised by testimonials of happy couples finding virtual union online. And I was startled to discover intelligent, attractive friends of my own who have found cyberlove.

Maria, 27, is a nice nautilus. She had come across plenty of really strange guys posing as twenty-somethings before meeting Dave, a sweet, 33-year-old Web-page designer with a playfully nasal tone of humour. After courting online, and a six-month, long-distance relationship, Dave proposed. Three years later, they're happily married.

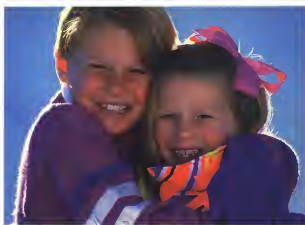
Cautious optimism: From my safe, comfortable Calgary home, I entered a chat room and instantly found fascinating individuals from around the globe—

including techno-geeks from Silicon Valley and an eloquent writer-poet from Philadelphia. In the study in my room on my laptop and even in school in the computer lab, at my waking hour when I wasn't in class, I feverishly typed away and chuckled to myself in front of the computer. My family was perplexed and not a little concerned by my addiction. My mother, worried that my obsession would lead to unfortunate consequences, asked my dad to look into disconnecting the Internet. My computer-savvy teenage brother would pop his head into the study and tell me to "get a life!" Friends used to drag me from the house, hoping they could break me from my burgeoning life as a nerd. But I wanted my cyber friends. "Beachin'" with his poetic rambles from Philadelphia, or "Peter Pan" perspectives on life in Australia.

Then . . . I met a "creep." At first, "Laser" seemed charming; after our first chat-room meeting, I gave him my e-mail address. From that, he cracked down my home phone number (which I had decided not to give out) and pushed for a visit—which I declined. After two more weeks of unrequited attention, he finally took the hint and left me alone.

That was enough for me to put an end to my chat-room associations—and besides, the whole process was starting to feel, well, tedious. So while others have found happiness by the light of a computer screen, my class experiment can't deliver that perfect Griffin to my Solow. But every now and then, I wonder how Becker and Peter Pan are doing.

Rima Kar of Calgary prefers to chat in private. Guest submissions may be sent to comments@canadian.ca or filed in (416) 596-7790. We cannot respond to all queries.



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Anthony Wilson-Smith

Real life, meet reel life

One day last fall, Peter Jennings took a Canadian acquaintance to lunch in Manhattan. One table sat followed by a fruit platter, Jennings would alternately cheerful and rueful as he reflected on the journalism biz, and his place in it. That morning, he had worked on voice-over for a pet project—a look at the life of Christ that mirrored evidence supporting His existence. Within ABC News, Jennings was using his clout as anchor to push for two hours in prime time—ones though that would be a ratings gamble. And he was shaking his head over recent trust between engagements in different cities—via *Teletex*. The experience, he said, was terrifically comfortable and convenient—and that was precisely why he was wary of repeating it. “The day we journalists get too removed from everyday life, we’re done for.”

One of the things that makes Jennings such a genuinely good guy is that he’ll tell you about such stuff, despite a multi-quadrant dollar salary and close to two decades lived under the white heat of the American media spotlight. It’s also a reason, he says, why he regularly returns to Ottawa, his home town, to clear his head. Wealth and celebrity can be corrupting influences. If you want testimony to that, ask journalists at ABC what they think of their network’s decision to have Leonardo DiCaprio announce Bill Clinton on environmental issues—under the sponsorship of the news division. Persons from the action were so certain that David Weism, his head, apologized, insisting—necessarily, as it turned out—that ABC made no such arrangement in advance with the actor. Weism briefly considered allowing the interview before finally deciding he took to air it.

It’s hard to know whether to wonder or cheer at the whole episode—to a bit of both at in order. *Calculus* Saving the World was the worst trend of the millennium or the last, but it’s close behind, say, reforming and offshoots in restaurants. Last month, Michael Douglas appeared before the British Parliament to lecture on the dangers of nuclear reaction. His qualification: he produced a movie about linking reactor two decades ago. DiCaprio doesn’t brush with ecological hazards in his latest movie, *The Beach*, which damaged the environment in Thailand, where it was shot. So, he’s been commissioned to write an essay on ecology for *Time*. ABC journalists aren’t wrong when they say that being lionized and being qualified aren’t the same—no matter who celebrates them. Journalism isn’t a profession with set standards in the same way as medicine or law—but it does require a certain skill set. PJ O’Rourke described Hollywood’s pecking order and attitude on fame nicely in his 1987 book *Reckless: Perry Report*. “Any kind of fame will do. A loose-limbed Supreme Court justice, the woman who tried to

shoot Gerald Ford and the actor who played Timony on the *Law* TV show are about equal.” After a while, the lines between life on-and-off-screen blur. Personally speaking, the next time a big corporation calls me off-circuit to meet them, I want Julia Roberts or Cynthia Dale to represent me in court. And surely you agree with O’Rourke when he observes that politics and journalism changed forever when Dan Rather and Robert Redford combined in the 1970s to bring down Richard Nixon with their reporting on *Watergate*.

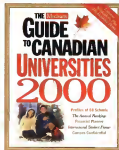
Still, there’s a cue to be made that we in the reporting business shouldn’t sound too pious, since we’ve played with similar practices for years. When DiCaprio went to the White House, he carried questions written by ABC News producers. That’s no different from co-star reporters whose scripts are written by others. When CNN’s *Peer Answer* fell into disfavor over a botched reporting job a few years back, he accused himself by saying his only role had been on-camera stand-ins, as it were. As he said, reporters and anchors often play themselves in movies and on TV, as *Wilder Constant* did a couple of weeks ago on *Friday* on CBS. In Canada, no one will ever forget that John Roberts—hair-appearance in *Dan Rather* at CBS—was “JD” in *V* days at MuchMusic. CBC used to run a drama series based on the life of Victor Malenk, a co-host of the fifth estate. If you don’t like Malenk’s head-angled real life reporting, maybe you prefer his cuddlier alter ego.

Peter’s not immune. *The New Yorker* did the best of the best, writing drama, billed comedies, *Resonance* in “point column” some years ago. Who really thinks the edited copy, commercialized means and were headlines? Every week, the *Almanac* has a column with Wayne Gretzky’s poems and lyrics, but it’s really written by senior columnist Ray MacGregor. In a neatly phoned chat with Gretzky And how many politicians or back-peddling actually were their own products? In the end, celebrity is a means, not an end. It’s how you use it that counts. When Jennings walked in for lunch that day at the Redbox Club—one of the power dining places in New York—the news stopped dead. He didn’t notice, or appeared not to notice, nor to his credit. People like Jennings and Peter Kent, Lloyd Robertson and Peter Macgregor regularly use their names to stand up for their newsmen and women from corporate executives. CEOs, MPs and other elites pay attention to news anchors because, well, they’re also well known, so they have something in common. The irony is that with a fragmenting broadcast market, the current generation of *Biggie* and *and* will likely be the last to have such first and close, in future, we won’t have celebrity anchors to protect us from other celebrities. Unless, of course, DiCaprio fancies a permanent career change.



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As the stock markets take a hammering, top investors talk about how they handled it

Inside the Meltdown

By Ross Levin

That giant whooshing sound investors heard last week was the air—or result of it, anyway—being let out of the Internet stock bubble. In five days of frantic trading tumbled in part by reports of lower earnings, the tech-heavy U.S. Nasdaq index shed by 1,125 points, closing on Friday at 3,321 after a record one-day drop of 9.7 per cent. Among the hardest hit was Watstone, Ont.-based Research in Motion Ltd., a maker of wireless two-way pagers, whose stock fell 62 per cent, wiping out \$6.2 billion of shareholder's money.

At first, investors pulling money out of high-priced technology shares sought safety in so-called old economy stocks in industries such as banking and resources. But at week's end, a heightened fear of inflation dealt another massive blow to an already bloodied market. The U.S. labor department reported that consumer prices rose 0.7 per cent in March, well above expectations and enough to convince investors that interest rates are headed up. A wave of panic swept trading floors throughout North America on Friday

scribbling the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 composite index down 5.5 per cent, to a level last seen in January. The Dow Jones industrial average fell by almost the same proportion, landing nine per cent below its level at the start of the year. "The market got carried away to the extreme on the upside and now it is going to get carried away to the extreme on the downside," said Larry Rice, chief investment officer at Josephthal Lyon & Ross in New York City.

The nervousness looked likely to continue into this week as investors await the next interest-rate pronouncement by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, which has already pushed up rates five times since last June to slow the strong economy. For a sense of how experienced investors were reacting to the sell-off, *Maclean's* reporters spoke to business leaders, technology executives and money managers across the country. Some of the responses:

Irvy Asper, founder and executive chairman of Winnipeg-based CanWest Global Communications Corp.

"I'm not a gambler. I work too hard for the money that I have and therefore I don't shoot the dice with it. I buy stocks

*Dispute for a Monday
future trader, one
from a reflection*



I can put in a shoe box and forget about it for a few years. I don't believe you make any money on a constant basis by being a short-term player. There are a huge number of day traders who are treating such assets to slot machines. When things get tough, people return to more traditional profit-making companies."

Greg McKinnis, Toronto-based managing director of Rose Macdonald Inc., an Internet professional services and venture capital company.

"Right now, I'm wishing I was in old economy stocks because everything else is getting wiped off the board. Pretty much any gains I had have been erased. My company's stock a month ago was at \$94 (U.S.). Today it's down to \$34. That's just got me from a German car to a North American car. When the stock was up, it was like I paid won the lottery. Now it's like a nice contribution to your RSP! Looking forward, that 20 years from now, this will mean nothing—it's a short-term thing."

Dennis Kavelman, chief financial officer of Research in Motion Ltd.

"This is a company in a brand-new business, with brand-new products, so there's not a lot of history. But people like our products, like our strategies. Nobody is questioning our long-term viability. Yes, the drop in the stock price doesn't help the paper value of our people's stock options, but I think if you asked them where they thought RIM would be a year from now, not too many of them would be worried."

Jim Altmouth, vice-president of Altmouth Investment Management Inc. and manager of the Altmouth e-business and sector and technology funds.

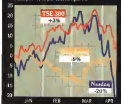
"In mid-March, we started shifting our mix towards larger companies and away from the second- and third-tier names like Research in Motion and Descent Systems Group. We still like those companies, but the question becomes, at what price? Right now, though, we're buying back into some of those stocks we sold. The underlying growth rates of those sectors—the Internet, wireless and biotech—are very strong, so there's still a solid base to build on."

Larry Stevenson, chairman and CEO of Chapters Online Inc., which raised \$65 million last fall in a initial public offering.

"If we hadn't raised our money then, the market drop would have had a devastating impact. But I'm a long-term player. I don't get

A CRAZY YEAR

How the key market indexes have changed since Jan. 1, in per cent (to April 14)



euphoric because the market is up 300 points in a day or upset because it's down 200 points. In fact, that may be a buying opportunity."

William Wong, chairman of Vancouver-based HSBC Asset Management (Canada) Ltd.

"Who knew the market would go up so far? No one did. Many of the companies were just a hope and a prayer. And we had ample warning it was going to come down: five-to-seven percent rises in interest rates. It's ironic that it comes down when that happens."



Jim Gray, co-founder of Calgary-based Canadian Hammer Exploration Ltd., one of the country's premier oil and gas companies.

"This is the old economy in oil and gas and mining, so I like to stick with what I know. I'm simply not familiar enough with the dot-coms to make any kind of local judgment on them. And my father used to say that something that goes up in a hurry can always adjust downward in a hurry."

Stephen Jaroslawski, chairman of Montreal-based investment counsel service Jaroslawski Fraser Ltd.

"I've made more money in the last two weeks than I've made in a hell of a long time in the stock market. I had the stocks that went up while the Internet and high tech were down—top financial stocks, top oil stocks, drug stocks. Every stock and his brother under the sun can make a living using behind-the-scenes and trading. It works for a while until he loses all his money, his house and everything."

Harry Shook, chairman and CEO of Newfoundland Capital Corp. Ltd.

"Most people try to avoid the dot-com mania and don't really understand it at all. There's been a lot of money made but by no one I know. We're using the downturn as an opportunity to buy back more of our stock. Why go into something you don't understand?"

Tom Kneass, former investment banker, now chairman of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research in Toronto.

"I don't understand biotech or the business of a lot of these



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Michael Dexter, president of retirement management firm Lawrence Dexter Investment Counsel Inc., which manages money for many prominent Canadians.

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David Wilkes, portfolio manager at Research Capital Corp in Toronto.

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Rory Holland, managing director of IdealPAC.com Ventures Inc., a Vancouver high-tech incubator.

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With John Debbert in Halifax, Brenda Benoit in Montreal, Mary Joann and Dennis Woodhead in Toronto, Brian Benjamin in Calgary and Chris Ward in Vancouver.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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Hell no, they wort go

Many draft dodgers found a home in Canada—and stayed

By Tom Fennell and Brenda Brunswell

After 30 years of playing the bar circuit, blues singer Morgan Davis has seen more of the country than most Canadians ever will. And more and more of what he sees disturbs him. Davis crossed the border as a draft dodger on July 4, 1968, at Oxyoos, B.C. "It was," says Morgan, "my independence day." He travelled east in a Volkswagen van to Toronto, a city that struck him as far quieter and safer than Detroit, where he grew up. Nearly 25 years have passed since Saigon fell on April 30, 1975. And like many of the young men who came north to escape the Vietnam War, Morgan says the cultural lines between Canada and the United States have blurred during that time. "I loved the differences when I came up," says Morgan, "but Canada is being sucked into America's colobry-laden, dog-eat-dog thing."

Davis, now 52, lives with his Canadian-born wife, Victoria, and 11-year-old daughter, Rosalie, in Toronto. He was one of some 80,000 American draft dodgers and deserters who sought sanctuary in Canada. As they approached the border, many would cut their long hair and replace their colourful tie-dyed T-shirts and jeans with cheap business suits. "That new middle-class image sometimes helped convince suspicious border guards not to turn them back to the United States. The new arrivals found Canada in a far more hospitable and confident mood than today—in 1967, the country celebrated its 100th birthday with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II." "We were celebrating

water-building while Americans were tearing themselves apart," says literary professor Jonathan Vance, who teaches a course on culture and war at the University of Western Ontario in London. "That gave people a sense of reassurance."

Although only about 20,000 draft dodgers and deserters returned to Canada after receiving full amnesty in 1977 from president Jimmy Carter, they have had an enduring impact. "We were quite happy to have the



American soldiers in Vietnam; Davis came (left) and in the 1960s (right): a decision to leave the United States rather than risk being sent to prison or the jungles of Southeast Asia

Americans come here," says Pierre Berton, the author of 1967 *The Last Good War*. "Those who stayed helped the country—we needed people who were gutsy enough not to fight that stupid war." Their refusal to go, adds Vance, changed the Canadian perception of military conflict, reinforcing the growing belief in Ottawa that Canada should deploy peacekeepers in foreign lands—but never combat forces. "The presence of the draft dodgers," says Vance, "forced us to think about our involvement in a potentially urgent war."

By the time the Vietnam War was over in 1975, nearly 1.9 million people had died and nine million were left as refugees. The United States alone would count 58,022 dead and another 300,000 wounded. During the initial stages of the conflict, Americans supported the war effort, but television, which for the first time broadcast images of the carnage during dinner-hour newscasts, slowly changed public opinion. So, too, thousands took to the streets to demonstrate against the war as the protest slogan "Hell no, we won't go" became emblematic of a generation. "These were desperate days," ac-

calls Davis. "By the time I was in my senior year in high school in 1965, president Kennedy had been assassinated and that Vietnam thing made no sense to me."

By the spring of 1968, Davis was majoring in history at college in Long Beach, Calif. He knew he would be drafted as soon as he graduated. It was at that point that Davis, and about 15 friends who were by then veterans of the answer movement, decided they had to leave the United States or risk being sent to prison or the jungles of Vietnam. Some went to lend and others to Amsterdam. Davis and his wife, Macy—they later divorced—decided to go to Canada.

Before reaching the border at Oxyoos on July 4, Davis cut his long, dark hair and donned a suit and tie. There was little drama—perhaps because of his current appearance. Border officials allowed the couple to apply for landed-immigrant status, and after just three hours of answering questions and filling out forms the pair found themselves in Canada. "There was a great sense of relief," recalled Davis. "We found a hotel and just flopped."

Davis spent the next 30 years developing his career as a blues singer and guitarist. Along the way he played with a number of bands in Toronto, among them the 80thym Roddeus, which included well-known Toronto guitarist David

Wilson. Davis did return briefly to Long Beach after Carno's 1977 amnesty, but soon returned to Toronto. "Some guys tried to rob my place, so I bought a gun," recalled Davis. "It was then that I knew I wanted to return to Canada."

As the Vietnam War raged, Henry Lehmann found the conflict increasingly repugnant. His fellow students at the University of Illinois could talk of nothing else. "It tended to divert attention from everything," says Lehmann, 56, who now teaches art history at Montreal's Vassar College. "We ended up basically worrying about the draft." Lehmann went to Paris to study at the Sorbonne and, while there, fell in love with a woman from Montreal. He decided to move to Canada. "In our fall

The first draft dodgers to arrive in Canada were regularly confronted by the RCMP. Fred Reel, now an award-winning literary translator living in Montreal, was studying in Athens in 1963 when he was ordered to report to a U.S. military base near the city. He came to Canada, where the 29-year-old became well-known to RCMP officers who repeatedly demanded to know when he was going back to the United States. "I was one of the first," says Reel, now 60, a Los Angeles native. "The RCMP had not devised a way of dealing with us. It was not clear what was going to happen."

That lack of harassment ended following the election of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1968. He quickly rejected U.S. demands to close the border to draft dodgers. By then, Reel, who now lives with his Canadian-born wife in an Outremont condominium, had earned his Greek studies at Montreal's McGill University and taught himself French. In 1972, he won the Governor General's Literary Translation Award for his version of Quebec author Thierry Hénault's nonfiction work *Angering the Middle East*.

Some draft dodgers and deserters who fled the politically charged atmosphere of the United States became involved in Canadian politics. After arriving in Canada, Reel supported Quebec's emerging separatist movement—which he has continued to do to this day. Quebec sovereigntists also enjoyed the support of anti-war draft dodgers who ended up in Montreal. Reel believes most of his fellow former Americans made significant contributions to Canada. "Many of them were people of exceptional talents," says Reel, "who had a sense of social commitment."

One of them is Conrad (Corky) Brown, 52. Like a number of Americans who came north in the late 1960s, Brown, originally from Tucson, Ariz., was not a draft dodger. But he felt he had to leave to make a statement. In 1969, he moved to Vancouver Island with his wife, Bonnie, who was seven months pregnant. He found work as a longhopperman, then as a logger. "I don't think the immigrant people will ever pay back what Canada gave us," he says. "It gave us a life." And he has given back—in public service. In 1991, Brown won election as the B.C. legislator for the NDP member for Nelson/Cranbrook. He served as minister of agriculture and transportation in the cabinet of premiers Mike Harcourt and Glen Clark. And in February's NDP leadership convention, he came in second to another immigrant to Canada, Premier Ujal Dosanjh.

Leaving the States ripped many families apart. Ray Brasseur, managing editor of Montreal's *The Gazette*, says that during his youth he rarely saw his father, Raymond,

ory. But on the day in 1969 that Brasseur told him he was deserting from the air force and heading to Montreal, his dad broke down in tears. "He wanted to tell my mother himself," recalls Brasseur, "because I was leaving the next day."

The transition in life in Montreal was easier for Brasseur than for many others. As a Franco-American with Quebec roots, Brasseur had learned French at home in his native Lowell, a blue-collar city northwest of Boston. And Brasseur found Quebec welcoming. He landed a job with the tabloid publisher Globe Communications, where he worked for 10 years. He later joined *The Gazette*, rising through the ranks to his current position.

Along the way, Brasseur helped other young Americans who flooded into Montreal. "I think the biggest emotional difficulty for most people was being torn from their families," he says. "That's what drove a lot of people back to the States. They just couldn't do it." Brasseur, who is married to a Canadian and has three children, remained briefly to the United States, but decided to come back to Canada. "I made a choice to live here because I feel more comfortable in this country," says Brasseur. "I do see it as a kinder, gentler society—and I think that fits my personality."

As the war progressed, a number of Canadians decided



Lehmann: He was 'tempted to divert attention from everything'

to help the draft dodgers and deserters. Among them was Marion Bain, a McGill University professor. "To receive landed-immigrant status, Americans who were in Canada had to return to the United States to apply at the border. Bain would drive them from Montreal to Vermont and then double back to another crossing where his passengers could make the application. "It wasn't always pleasant," recalls Bain in the living room of his bungalow in Dorval, Que. "Sometimes it was humorous—but sometimes it was scary."

On one occasion, when one of Bain's American passengers filled out his immigration form, he wrote that his father had lived in Paris. Bain then pointed the man's last name and birthplace. "I said, 'Is this Henry Miller's kid?'" recalls Bain. The son of the man who wrote the controversial novels *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn* said yes. Looking back, Bain says he still feels a sense of pride. "I was proud that I had a small bit to play," he says. "These were morally upright people. They took a stand." One that led them to Canada—where many of them gave back as well as they received.

With *Corky Brown* in Vancouver

The decision to stay or leave often divided families

controversial novels *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn* said yes. Looking back, Bain says he still feels a sense of pride. "I was proud that I had a small bit to play," he says. "These were morally upright people. They took a stand." One that led them to Canada—where many of them gave back as well as they received.



Brasseur: "I've made a choice to live here because I feel more comfortable."

swamp," he says. "I got on an airplane and charged my life." While the decision to stay or leave the United States often divided families, Lehmann left with the full support of his parents in Chicago. "They thought the war was a mess," he said, "then the world got." His opposition increased when FBI agents showed up at his father's law office and demanded to know where his son was. U.S. authorities then brought a charge to capture Lehmann, who received his draft notice in 1967, when he took the train from Montreal to Saint John, N.B., without knowing it was through Maine. "I was on the day coach at the middle of the night," recalls Lehmann. "Suddenly, on my arrival, the American customs officers were on the train." Fortunately, they were only interested in talking to people who were getting off in Maine.

Canada's war vets

In the summer of 1998, Les Brown walked the lonely streets of Whitefield, Que., pondering a tough question: Is light in Vietnam or women in the security of Canada. Only months earlier he had been living in suburban Los Angeles and, like many other children of Canadians working in the United States, facing the possibility of being drafted. His mother, Joy, wanted him to stay in Canada, where he was working on a farm, but he missed his friends and wanted a partner. Brown was assigned to a platoon of the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam between 1964 and 1973, and

some never returned. Those that did often still wake up in a cold sweat. "I am seeing a psychiatrist to help me work through my memories," says Brown, 51, who now lives near Ottawa and has just published a book, *There It Is: A Canadian in the Vietnam War*.

Many other Canadians served willingly. Lee Hitchens, 55, and two high school buddies in Smiths Falls, Ont., travelled to Buffalo, N.Y., in 1963 and enlisted in the U.S. army. "The Communists were bad and we good," recalls Hitchens. In 1965, Hitchens was assigned to a company of the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam for an eight-month tour. He returned to Smiths Falls in 1972—reluctant to talk much about his experiences. "It was worse coming back to Canada," says Hitchens. "All we heard about

were the draft dodgers who came up here." Exactly how many Canadians served in Vietnam is difficult to determine. Hitchens, who is president of the Canadian Veterans Veterans' Group, estimates the number at 30,000 to 40,000. The confusion exists because Canadians drafted while they were living in the United States show up in records as Americans. But Hitchens says that, so far, more than 100 dead soldiers listed on the Veterans Veterans Memorial in Washington have officially been confirmed as Canadian. Their names also appear on a Canadian memorial in a park in Windsor—just across the Detroit River from the United States.

LE

Scrummed Out

A peculiarly Canadian media tradition has resulted in some unpleasant surprises for the Liberals

By John Geddes in Ottawa

Paul Martin had been through the drill hundreds of times before. The finance minister emerged from a routine meeting, put on his game face and walked into a half-circle of reporters. But on March 16, in Ottawa's blandly modern Writers' House, something went terribly wrong. The tape of the day could not have captured him: political codes were breaking with the news that his closest advisers had seen a few days earlier with a group of supportive MPs to discuss Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's refusal to arm and let them run take-over. Mr. Martin seemed not to have rehearsed any good lines. "My staff meets with members of cabinet all the time," was the best he could muster. "It's the way we developed the budget, it's the way we basically sell the budget."

To the uninitiated, that hesitant response, delivered at 10:35 a.m., might have sounded just enough. But the veteran politician holding out that tape seemed to catch his words scuffed blood. A recent gathering of Martin's inner circle would be his last as prime minister for Chrétien to step down could not be shrugged off in a budget policy seminar. Martin was being disingenuous, and a media scrum, while a clumsy mechanism for gathering complex information, can be deadly efficient when it comes to catching a dissembling politician. In this sense, the right combination of the word "scrum"—unusually Canadian in its application to a politician confronting journalists—is misleading. Two balanced sides are not squaring off. Consider the shape of the thing; it more like a leg-bowl trap where it is being sprung.

Next question: "But, Mr. Martin, at these meetings, are MPs actually given polling data by your supporters about how you would do if you were prime minister?" Now Martin began to sound hesitant, answering slightly. "I don't know what went on at that particular meeting," he said. "The question is, do they get polling data, for instance, on the budget?" "Well, no, that wasn't the question. And so the feeding frenzy was on as Martin awkwardly tried to



Martin during the March 16 encounter: the notion that the way to escape a scrum amounted to it to prevent the awkward questions doesn't have asked in a common tactical move



Budget night in Parliament: location can be everything when it comes to staging a meeting with the media

escape—another high-profile Liberal who has recently been left twisting in the glare of the TV lights.

According to experts in scrum technique—media consultants whose role in politics combines drama teacher and martial arts coach—Martin showed bad form in trying to subvert his own question for the one point. "You have to answer the question," declares Neil Fox, author of *Spin Wars: Politics and New Media* and former press secretary to prime minister Brian Mulroney. "You don't have to accept the characterization of the question, but the scrum is an information exchange." In other words, Martin caused his own downfall, as did Marianne Steward's Minister Jane Stewart earlier this year in another embarrassing moment for the Liberals.

The notion that the way to escape a scrum involved is to pretend the irrelevant questions haven't been asked is a common tactical error. Stewart may never live down the scrum, early in the controversy over mismanagement of grants in her department, in which she spent more than seven minutes deeply ignoring virtually every question put to her when she emerged from a cabinet meeting. The clumsiness of that attempt to say "no message" was compounded when Chrétien stepped up to defend her. Stewart (as the Prime Minister was merely passing by—not just out, as some reports said, by his handlers to cut her off. "Sometimes, circumstances conspire against a person," Stewart told *Maclean's*) "The Prime Minister was trying to get out for lunch."

Location can be everything when it comes to staging a scrum. Stewart had no choice about here: the cabinet room she was leaving a next to the Prime Minister's office in Parliament's Centre Block. Two designated spots for post-cabinet-meeting scrums are taped off in the corridor outside—so it is plain that Chrétien was merely ducking out for a late when he appeared like the cowboy at Stewart's side. But the appearance of being seen to the showmen by the boss made for a disastrous TV clip. The moment, which seemed to turn up Stewart's

woes, was broadcast live on CBC Newsweek, then frequently replayed. In the age of 24-hour TV news, the rare scrum that often that sort of nation and drama has far more impact than the even more one that concerns vital new information.

More often, politicians can decide where to face the camera. Savvy media advisers urge them to choose their spots carefully to avoid such uncontrollable events as random passers-by disrupting the scrum. Even more crucial than avoiding traffic, Fox says, is what he calls "scene and guest" planning. "You have to know how you are going to get into the scrum and how you are going to get out," he says, adding with emphasis, "at a time of your choosing."

Martin did not have a plan for overt again that day at the Writers' House. About three long minutes into the scrum, held back enough. But instead of being positioned under a hallway exit sign, say, for a clean getaway, he was ensnared at the top of three flights of metal stairs leading down to the lobby. So, at around 10:35 a.m., he began a descent so tortuous it might have come straight out of Dante. The hot TV lights stayed on as reporters poked him with questions. Almost immediately, Martin made an unattractive mistake. From the scum, obviously irritated, he started and roared, "I answered the questions. The doors opened. 'No you didn't.'"

Insiders who have watched Martin at close range for years were surprised in this misfire. "He's usually quite good at setting the parameters for a scrum," says John Burke, a vice-president with the Ottawa-based firm Thornley Fells Communications and a former senior parliamentary reporter for Global TV news. "Even before the first question, he'll often say, 'I just want to say...'" He establishes how long he wants to stay there and when he wants to leave.

Not this time. By showing back at the enraged media, Martin avoided a moving scrum, which can take on a life of its own. Spin doctors worry at the very thought of one. Many can still call to mind that defining on-screen scene from the troubled

High-profile members of the Chrétien cabinet have been left twisting in the bright glare of the television lights



Chrétien with Chrétien, the appearance of being sent to the showers by the heat made for a dramatic television clip.

noah, I don't recall," he pleaded at one point. A reporter asked if he had been recently hit on the head with a rock.

No question to unreservedly made was put to Martin at the time. But as the pack followed him, an some good piece of insight. Just after 10:37 a.m., Martin passed, between occasions, to try to calm things down. "I have made it very clear that what we are looking for as a party is the development of policy," he intoned. "Thank you this is all about." Nobody was buying that. By 10:38 a.m., he was back on the machine, but still telling. "I have made it incredibly clear OK. My personal. I respect Mr. Chrétien's decision and I intend to run again." Martin was still dodging repeated questions about whether he was ready to tell MPs' legal to him to look all scenarios that might seem designed to push Chrétien out, but he was edging closer to directly addressing the leadership after the reporters were pressing him on.

By then, however, no matter how longish Martin breathes, he would still look evasive on TV. "The truth couldn't have been worse," admitted one Martin aide. And there would be no chance to repair the damage. CBC News would quickly put Martin's refusal to run on the air, and it would be through the day. Newsweek's editorial line or almost any magazine's immediate of center. "People have a right to know what politicians are like under pressure." After harrowing for the old days, he says, when reporters provided quiet for western states, not enough for sound-the-clock television, is empty nostalgia. "It's like saying that we shouldn't have developed the automobile," he says, "because it led to car accidents."

Martin's net work finally stopped rolling over in the West's proud face lobby, where he composed himself. "For everybody here," he asked in the reporter club about 10:30 a.m. "If you want to know what happened at the meeting, you should ask to the people who were there," he said. "And the other question, individual MPs are elected, they speak for themselves. I speak for myself. My position is very clear. Mr. Chrétien has the entire right to make his own decision and I respect that decision." He pronounced the rest of the last few words hesitantly. I Respect. That. Decision. Then he repeated himself in French, and better free. It was nearly nine minutes after the scene began. On the unbroken CBC videotape, the last thing heard is a reporter bawling into laughter. They couldn't believe how well this one went.



Bruce Wallace

Canada's accidental tourist

There are still some measures by which Jean Chrétien's Middle East trip could be considered a success. At least no one there could be held like the Palestinians did to French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin when he visited in February. Angry Palestinians left Jospin with a small head wound and a bigger political headache after he described assistance by Israeli settlers on Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon as "terrorism" acts. The meeting should have been a heads up to any leader touring the Middle East, a warning that this is no place for sentimental tourism to neighbor with carefully forced thought that the lesson was clearly lost on Chrétien, who later would tell the closest foreign trip a Canadian leader has made since Joe Clark's "Innocent Ahmad" tour of 1979.

Chrétien's trip was so bad that PM's own followers and some home.

There was never a good explanation for why Chrétien was in the region in the first place, other than to try to claim to bring the first thing. Canadian prime minister in a long time. Chrétien seems to have become obsessed with "Israel," as in opposing the first woman chief justice on the fact of her own grand of Arab origins. And if that was all he wanted to accomplish in the Middle East, he should have been able to do so without burying his head on anything controversial. Ottawa has crafted cautious positions on all the region's contentious issues. Chrétien just had to state them.

So he was trying to hear his own people and make up new ones, apparently on the fly. Chrétien tried dodging the inevitably sensitive issue of Jerusalem's future status (both sides claim it as their capital) with a shrug and a little hint of ignorance. "I don't know if I am in West, South, North or East Jerusalem," he said to explain why he was not visiting the Palestinians. Authoritarian unofficial headquarters in East Jerusalem. Then in Gass, he offered an unprepared opinion that Palestinians were entitled to choose a national declaration of independence if their negotiations with the Israelis began. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat stood beside him and beamed.

The next day, he stood on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, whose boundaries and water rights are the subject of delicate negotiations between the Israelis and Syrians, and said: "I think the Israelis are right to want to keep it." And he con-

cluded the week in a messy misunderstanding with the Israelis over whether he had agreed to accept 15,000 Palestinian refugees in the event of a final peace deal. The Palestinian fury, least it threatened to drastically limit the number of the 3.5 million Palestinian refugees who can return home.

None of this unduly rattled the Middle East. If the Israelis, Syrians and Palestinians were rattled in various ways, Chrétien was at least an equal opportunity manager (which is a good thing since he also offered to send Canadian peacekeepers into the dangerous badlands of southern Lebanon should a wider peace deal be struck). Unlike Jospin, a big error because he represents a country that has some share weight, Chrétien and Canada are barely on the radar of the region.

At first, Chrétien tried using the low profile as a defense, claiming local media weren't writing about any gaffes. "If you are a politician, they don't see it," he almost bragged. As policy announcements piled up, through late observations, the PM's staff insisted, they could not see any.

But this trip always had fit in to do with Canadian politics and (barring Chrétien's image) with the hard dragging of foreign affairs. And it was in home that Chrétien paid a price earlier.

news coverage of his blunder and the desperate attempts of aides to fix the damage. Few Canadians may know in one more about the intricacies of the peace process, but with a decision about, many Liberals were stunned about the effect on voters of seeing the PM so off balance and off message.

Chrétien has never shown much interest in the subtleties of foreign policy. Even his supporters acknowledge the 1988 opening to Cuba, reportedly his major foreign initiative, was more accompanied by very deep engagement on the issue in follow-up once the trip was over. Two weeks before his Middle East pilgrimage, Foreign Affairs flew journalists from each of the countries on the itinerary to Ottawa to learn about Canada and to interview the Prime Minister. But Chrétien wouldn't see them, in part, officials say, because he did not want to have to be briefed twice—once for the interviews and again before the trip. That negligence may work well at home. But it is terribly inappropriate to casually dip a toe into the high-stakes Middle East peace process, where a deal is sensibly close, worth more something and political demands so much courage from those who pursue it.



Chrétien meeting Arafat, struggling policies.

New salvos in the fight for the right

The fight for the right heated up with word that Tim Long, a longtime ally to Ontario Tory Premier Mike Harris, intends to seek the leadership of the new Canadian Alliance party. Fired from the mostly western-based Reform party, the Alliance, which hopes to garner support east of Manitoba, suffered a public relations setback recently when Ontario cabinet minister Frank Klein withdrew from the race, claiming that a potential donor had insisted he agree to throw his support behind another, unnamed candidate. Now, observers say Long's entry into the campaign could represent a serious Ontario challenge to others vying for the job, among them former Reform leader Preston Manning, Alberta Treasurer Stockwell Day and B.C. Attorney General Kevin Martin.



Long a candidate from Mike Harris Ontario

an intention to try he is a very attractive candidate," Federation Alliance MP Robert Jaffer said of Long. Long is expected to make an official written web site. Whether the backroom negotiator can attract enough western votes to make a viable run for the leadership is questionable. But he can certainly bring Ontario Tories into the Alliance fold—and shake up the federal Conservative party whose members the Alliance is trying to woo.

Courtroom faceoff

Longtime friends and legal rivals John Rosen and Austin Cooper squared off over lawyer Ken Murray's handling of Paul Bernard's murder case. Murray isn't in the St. Catharines, Ont., for appearing videotaped that show the sex killer and his former wife, Rada Homanik, smiling alongside teenagers Krysten French and LaDra Mahaffy Cooper, who is defen-

ding Murray, cross-examined Rosen, who took over from Murray to represent Bernard at his 1995 trial. He accused that attorney to what Rosen had testified previously. Murray had not misbehaved the case. "I would suggest to you this file was in an uncharacteristic state when you took over," said Cooper. "From a client's point of view," testified Rosen. "When I said the file was a mess, I meant from a lawyer's perspective."

Now Clark is back as federal Tory leader, and last week he suffered some highly publicized defections to Long. Pauline Browne, a longtime Tory who served as a cabinet minister in the

New protection for wildlife

Conservation groups passed the federal government's proposed endangered species legislation, even though Environment Minister David Anderson stated the bill would provide the strongest wildlife protection in the world. Although the bill has stiff penalties for those who deliberately kill endangered animals, environmentalists are especially upset with the fact that cabinet ministers, not scientists, will decide which species are at risk.

A casualty of Rwanda

Dr. Gen Romeo Dallaire, 53, announced he is taking early retirement—in a self-described casualty announcement—after a 35-year career of peacekeeping. Dallaire, a son-in-law of the former, led a 2,500-member UN mission in Rwanda, where he witnessed the 1994 massacre of some 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu by Hutu extremists. When he returned, he experienced nightmares and flashbacks and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Job cuts in Nova Scotia

Civil servants expressed outrage at the budget tabled by Nova Scotia Conservative government, which includes the dismantling of 1,600 public service jobs. Finance Minister Neil LeBlanc said his first priority is to reduce the province's \$388-million deficit. Cape Breton, where the unemployment rate is 20 per cent and hundreds of civil service and teachers are about to lose their jobs, received scant attention. LeBlanc's second bid \$500,000 of the \$5-billion provincial budget to encourage investment on the island.

No answers in a tragedy

After 32 days of testimony, a coronor's jury in Whiteburg, Ont., said it could not determine how 10-year-old Nylea Neum ended up in a car's back seat. His Chatham elementary school on Feb. 6, 1998. Neum died in hospital six days later. The boy's father, Mike Neum, had argued that one or two Grade 6 boys placed Neum in the back, causing his death. He had hoped for a verdict of homicide at the inquest, where evidence included 27 hours of videotaped police interviews with the boys.

A ruling against native logging

Justice Bernard of the Federal Court in Montreal, N.B., was found guilty of illegal possession of Crown timber, in a case closely watched by natives as they wage a legal campaign to win greater access to natural resources. Provincial court Judge Dennis London said there was no money and no strong, final deal that gave Bernard the right to harvest trees on Crown land. Bernard, who was fined \$300, said he expects the case will continue through the various appeal stages, ultimately going to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Heston preaches for firearms

Acorn Chaffin Heston, president of the U.S.-based National Rifle Association, railed against gun control in Canada during a speech in Prince George, B.C. Heston, best known for his 1996 film parody of Moses in *The Ten Commandments*, told 300 delegates at the B.C. Wildlife Federation's annual convention that it will be a sad day on Jan. 1, 1998, when every gun in Canada has to be registered with the federal government. "You may not be absolutely free when you own a firearm," he said. "But I guarantee you will never be free when you can't."

A landmark case goes to trial

The so-called *Sager* budget hearing into the NDP's financial misman-



Heston with wife Lynda, against controls

agement during the 1996 provincial election campaign started in B.C. Supreme Court. Lawyer David Lunn, who is representing the citizens' group Help B.C., alleges the B.C. government created a "monumental deception" when then-premier Glen Clark called the 1996 election on the same day he boasted that the 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 budgets contained small surpluses. Months after the NDP won the election, voters learned the government was significantly in the red. If Lunn's case is successful, it could result in a provincial election.

Concerns over the RCMP

In his latest report to Parliament, federal Auditor General Denis Desautels was especially critical of the human resources department, saying it is wasting. Employment Insurance cheques to re-

employees—often—without a greater level of passivity payments. But he also said he has "serious concerns" about RCMP oversight backlogs and delays in laboratory tests that could compromise law enforcement and endanger the public. Desautels acknowledged a cash infusion may help Human Resources, but he believes the RCMP's problems are more managerial than monetary.

Upholding French

A Quebec Superior Court judge upheld the province's language law, which says that French must predominate on commercial signs. The case involved two Anglophone store owners in the Eastern Townships whose signs featured equal-sized French and English lettering. Meanwhile, a report released last week by the Parti Québécois government said the French language is particularly threatened in Montreal.

Royal assent for a treaty

The controversial Nisga'a treaty became law after it was passed by the Senate and received royal assent. It will give the natives of the remote Nisga'a Valley in northern British Columbia some 2,000 square kilometers of land, about \$253 million in cash and home fits, and a form of self-government. But the treaty is also facing lawsuits from other native bands and the B.C. Liberal party.

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Zimbabwe's Shaky Ground

Critics accuse the president of using land to stay in power

By Susan McClintock

As the sun rises over Karu, Zimbabwe, about 200 km northwest of the capital, Harare, squatters appear to have taken over the rolling countryside. Their presence is a stark reminder of the troubled times facing the southern African nation. The hundreds of black peasants camping on the rich farmland owned by whites are protesting unequal land distribution. And for the first time since the squatters appeared in February, white farmers have started to abandon their properties. One farmer says as he recounts how armed insurgents forced him to sign over his 400-hectare tobacco farm. Across Zimbabwe, once considered a model for racial tolerance, similar tales are now heard.

Estimates vary widely, but at least 7,000 rebel peasants, led by men claiming to be victims of the country's liberation war against Great Britain, have seized 500 farms. Two people have been killed, and on April 1, 15 others were injured when black supporters of President Robert Mugabe attacked opposition party members peacefully demonstrating against the farm invasions on the streets of Harare.

The farmers are an easy target, although whites make up about one per cent of the country's population of 12 million, they still own about one-third of all fertile land. And the situation is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon. Last week, Harare High Court Judge Moses Chigwaga ruled the Zimbabwean police must evict the thousands of squatters, stating the "rule of law must be upheld." But the police have already asked to be excused for not obeying an earlier eviction order. And last week, the war veterans rejected the High Court decision even as the farm invasions continued—and Mugabe vowed that nothing would stand in the way of land



A white farmer with squatters who invaded his farm; Mugabe (left) a play to shore up rural support?

redistribution. All of this comes as Mugabe dissolved Zimbabwe's parliament last week, ostensibly in anticipation of a forthcoming election, which the 76-year-old strongman says he will call some time this spring.

Many Zimbabweans, both black and white, are blaming the president for encouraging the squatters and fanning racial tension as a ploy to win rural support. He certainly has his own political problems. Just before the farm invasions began in February, Zimbabweans voted down a draft constitution that would have extended Mugabe's term for a further 10 years and given him power to confiscate white-owned land for redistribution to blacks. For the first time in his 20 years as leader of Zimbabwe, officials of his own party, the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), suggested Mugabe slip down—a sentiment shared by many critics.

But despite Mugabe's recent electoral defeat, in early April the ZANU-PF-controlled parliament passed legislation allowing the government to seize the white-owned farms—which further emboldened the squatters. Many political analysts see the action as an attempt to intimidate white land owners,



who largely support the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the first party that has a chance of defeating the ZANU-PF in its 20-year reign. "It's not a question of land, but a political problem," Ian Smith, the former prime minister who still lives in Harare, told *Albion*. "The present government is scared of losing the elections and wants to use the land issue as a political gimmick to stay in power."

But land is an issue that has bedeviled Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, since it gained its independence from Britain in 1980 after a bloody 15-year guerrilla war against white-minority rule. As part of the independence negotiations, Mugabe, leader of the rebels, agreed to a reform program that involved, with British aid, buying land owned by whites and allocating it to landless black peasants. Yet over the years, critics say, the government mismanaged the program. Even though the economy slumped in the 1980s, land reform was sidelined as Mugabe spent the money that should have gone to land reform supporting left-wing insurgents in other African nations. In an unpopular move, last year Mugabe's government sent 11,000 Zimbabwean troops to fight on the side of Laurent Kabila's regime in the Democratic Republic of Congo civil war.

Critics have also accused Mugabe of playing favorites at home. "Mugabe's ministers, some and party officials profited from the land distribution, some of them amassing several farms," says MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai. More than half of the 800,000 hectares bought from white farmers since 1980 was distributed to wealthy Zimbabweans, mostly

Mugabe's friends. Another 800,000 hectares is currently up for sale, but the cash-strapped government cannot afford it. Meanwhile, the majority of black rural peasants to whom Mugabe promised land never received any, *Tsvangirai* claims. "Those who really need land have been practically ignored for years," he said.

In order to win the next election, Mugabe needs to woo the black rural constituency—ZANU-PF's traditional core of support. But black allegiance is waning. Many say the rapid descent of the country into anarchy is one reason voters are disenchanted with the current government. Meaningful advances achieved since independence in health care and education have eroded—while reports indicate that nearly three-quarters of Zimbabweans now live below the poverty line. Inflation is at 60

per cent. The Zimbabwean dollar is worth about four cents in Canadian funds. A huge unemployment crisis, AIDS—which claims the lives of an estimated 1,200 Zimbabweans each week—and a fuel shortage cripple the country. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have frozen all financial aid, because of the poor performance of the national economy and Zimbabwe's involvement in the Congo war.

But Mugabe seems determined to persevere, even if it plunges the nation into armed conflict. One tactic, say MDC officials, is intimidating white opposition party members. In the April 1 incident in Harare, the soldiers urged whites, not blacks, to the mass demonstration. In other violence on April 3, 12 black squatters beat Sir Kay, who owns a farm about 80 km southeast of Harare, on two separate occasions. Kay holds a prominent position with the MDC and was planning on running in the spring election.

Smith says simply that "Mugabe's government is desperate and wants to stay in power at any cost." Some foreign observers seem to agree. Robin Cook, the British foreign secretary recently suggested to Mugabe that international observers monitor the next election. Smith, however, adds such a move would not make a difference. "International observers rarely see what is on the surface. They don't see how the government is undermining the opposition and democratic forces." As other accounts of violence emerge from Zimbabwe, that may not be true for long.

With Issues Pending in Harare



Andrew Phillips

America's hostage drama

Amassing the things that turn up: How about this letter, carefully preserved for six decades in the U.S. Archives in Washington, addressed to "Mr. Franklin Roosevelt [sic], President of the United States," by a protocon 12-year-old boy in the city of Santiago de Cuba. "My dear friend Roosevelt," it says in part. "If you like, give me a ten dollar bill green american, because never, I have not seen a ten dollar bill green american and I would like to have one of them." It ends "Thank you very much. Good by Your friend, Fidel Castro."

The road begins: What might happened if "Roosevelt" had smiled at the left orphan, dug into his wallet and sent off some "green american" by return mail? Perhaps all the enmeshments between Cuba and the United States—including the political spat open over young Elián González—might have been avoided. As it turned out, of course, Fidel grew up to lead a revolution, and relations between Havana and Washington have been held hostage ever since by the Cuban crisis in Miami who have come to herald of him into a new sibling of a cult.

On the face of it, it looked like the drama over what should become of Elián after his rescue from the shoals of Florida was another example of the ability of Miami to manipulate U.S. foreign policy. There are barely 700,000 people of Cuban descent in north Florida (one of just over 15 million in the state). But through a combination of money, organizing, political donations and sheer bloody-mindedness, they have been able to equate the Washington's in economic embargo against Castro. Cuba long after it makes any sense.

In Elián's case, they managed at least to drag it out for more than four months and fill the air with defiant rhetoric. But far from humbling Castro, they succeeded only in adorning themselves from more Americans and the people they send most—the power brokers in Washington. Polls show a clear majority of Americans—60 per cent in a Gallup survey—think the boy should be reunited with his father, no matter how oppressive the government he lives under. And rather than showing the continued strength of the Cuban cause, the Elián affair only underlined its weakness.

It is no longer as united as it was in its linguistic leader, Jorge M. Canales, died in 1997 and no immigrant has taken his place. Younger Cubans and those who left the island long after the revolution tend to favour some kind of dialogue with

the devil (aka the Castro government), although their voices are often drowned out by those for whom exile is still a new wound. Just as important, their traditional friends in Washington pulled away as the saga dragged on. In the first few weeks after Elián was rescued at sea, Republicans rushed to the role of his Miami relatives, even proposing an act of Congress to make the boy an American citizen. That went nowhere, and the only politicians seeking their rocks out for the Miami crowd last week were those from Florida and New Jersey (the other significant centre of Cuban exile votes—and campaign contributions).

And even in Washington formally anxious in economic boycott of Cuba, the links are growing stronger and the calls for a new approach louder. A host of business groups, from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the farm lobby, want to get on the action. But González and his family have rejected that.

For a new approach leader, Elián is a tough nut to crack. He is a Cuban-born boy, but he is a U.S. resident—his first year in his father's custody—was held in Havana in January by companies eager to make use of that "green american" even as Elián was being led in Miami. And look at the names called for a fresh look at Cuba policy: the boy's handbook by such noted conservative critics as Henry Kissinger, Lawrence Eagleburger and George Shultz (all former Republican secretaries of state), as well as a quarter of the U.S. Senate.

No wonder conservative disidents were dumbly that the Clinton administration took advantage of Elián's plight to pave the way for a wider opening to Cuba. For them, Elián is a Gregory Clegg, the Washington lawyer who travelled to Havana, met for hours with Castro and represented the boy's father in the United States. The self-same Clegg was a disclaimer of Bill and Hillary Clinton at Yale Law School and defended the President on the floor of the Senate during his impeachment trial. Can this really be a coincidence?

Clinton, the morning goes, is in his last year in office and hungry for some solid achievement to burnish his "legacy." One might be a trip to Venezuela, to bury the ghosts that haunted his generation. Another might be a breakthrough with Cuba, repairing the breach that opened during the presidency of his hero, John F. Kennedy. It is not a far-fetched notion. The only question is whether you see it as a threat—or something long, long overdue.



González, angry defender

A new start

New Russian President Vladimir Putin shepherd the Start II arms reduction treaty through the Russian Duma, where legislators passed it by a vote of 328 to 134. The treaty, which was negotiated seven years ago, calls for U.S. and Russian nuclear armaments to be reduced by half. But Putin said Russia would not honour the treaty if the United States decided to proceed with an anti-missile system, in contravention of the 1973 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Washington has been trying to get Russia to alter that agreement.

'Anti-Semitic and racist'

British historian and Holocaust-denier David Irving lost a libel case after a judge declared that he was in fact "anti-Semitic and racist and that he associated with right-wing extremists who promote neo-Nazism." Irving, the author of more than 30 books, sued U.S. professor Deborah Lipstadt and her publisher, Penguin Books, for criminal libel after she wrote in her 1993 book *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, Irving, who represented himself, is now responsible for the more than \$4-million in legal costs incurred by the defendants. He plans to appeal the ruling.

A question of innocence

Forty-six years after a Cleveland jury convicted Dr. Sam Sheppard of murdering his pregnant wife, Marilyn, another Cleveland jury rejected a wrongful imprisonment suit brought against the state of Ohio in his name by his son, Sam Jr. Sheppard. Sheppard was originally convicted in 1955 and served 10 years in prison, but in 1966 he was acquitted—only to die four years later. Sheppard's name would later become the basis for the acclaimed television series *The Agony*.

Rally in Belgrade

A crowd estimated at more than 100,000 people gathered in Belgrade to appeal to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for a just general election. The rally was marked by a joint, albeit unenthusiastic, appearance by two leading opposition leaders, Zoran Djindjic and Vuk Draskovic.

An angry showdown over Elián González

Jubilant crowds chanting "Elián won't go!" jammed the streets surrounding the home of 10-year-old Elián González's relatives to celebrate a court victory over embattled U.S. Attorney General Juan Reno. She was forced to fly to Miami last Wednesday to personally intervene in the case, which has plagued her since Nov. 25, when Elián was rescued after his mother drowned in a shipwreck while trying to escape with the boy in the United States from Cuba. At Elián's Cuban father, Juan Miguel González, wanted in Washington to claim his son, Reno tried to convince Elián's Miami relatives to turn him over to immigration authorities by 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 15. But the boy's great-uncle, Lázaro González, refused, saying "We will not be the deportation officers."

Instead, on Thursday, a U.S. court



Miami protest, fighting for Elián

granted Lázaro a temporary injunction preventing the boy's removal from the United States. Lawyers for the government then asked the court to order the return of the boy to his father, setting the stage for a dramatic showdown with Elián's relatives. And Reno promised not to back down. "I want to be clear," he said. "Five working pellets force our order, we will do so."

Sex and money in a Wall Street drama

Two U.S. businessmen and Kathryn Gannon, 36, a Canadian-born porn actress who had affairs with both men, are at the centre of a sex-fund scam drama in Manhattan. Prosecutors claim that Wall Street investment banker James McDermott Jr., 46, passed on under stock trading tips to Gannon, who then passed them to Anthony Persipio, 45, a New Jersey businessman. Together, Persipio and Gannon are alleged to have made \$170,000. Gannon, who married in X-rated movies as Marilyn Sex, is a Vancouver fighting entertainer.

Banking on trouble

Thousands of protesters descended on Washington to denounce the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank scheduled for last Sunday and Monday. But, who feared a repeat of the violence that flared up during protests at last year's World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, made sure through out the week, while on Saturday authori-

ties closed a warehouse being used as a headquarters by the Mobilization for Global Justice, an anti-IMF coalition. A police spokesman cited fire violations as the reason for the evacuation, saying they had also found a Molotov cocktail. But the protesters rejected these explanations, claiming that police had used the fire as an excuse for fire violations to close them down and saying that the Molotov cocktail was not real—and had been planted.

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World Notes

Lowering the flag

Yielding to the pressure of passion marches and a growing national boycott, the South Carolina Senate voted 36-17 in favour of removing the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse dome and placing a similar, similar flag behind an existing monument to Confederate soldiers on Statehouse grounds. Senators conceded that the mounting financial toll of a four-month exercise boycott led by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People had become unbearable. Officials announced that the state has lost \$10 million from the cancellation of conventions alone. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives must also vote on removing the flag, but observers believe the measure will pass.

Peruvian run-off

President Alberto Fujimori fell just shy of reaching the required 50-per-cent plus one vote majority in the first round of the Peruvian presidential election and will now face a run-off in late May against Alejandro Toledo, his leading opponent. Toledo, who won 40.3 per cent, accused Fujimori's supporters of election fraud. A university professor who is of native heritage, he mounted a surprisingly effective campaign that received strong support among lower class Peruvians. Fujimori, who is of Japanese descent, has been president of the impoverished South American nation for a decade.

Yashin frozen out

The National Hockey League said Alex Yashin cannot play for the Russian national team at the upcoming world championship. Yashin, who is currently under suspension by the NHL because of a contract dispute over money, had hoped to play in the tournament, which starts on April 26, if the Senators are eliminated from the NHL playoffs. But the league says Yashin's suspension will run until the end of June, and the International Hockey Federation has pledged to honour NHL rules.

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RAVE FEVER

Raves are all the rage, but drugs are casting a pall over their sunny peace-and-love ethos

By Susan Oh

It's 2:30 a.m. on a Saturday night, and Amanda Mondoux is just hitting her party stride. All smiles and a swirl of flapping clothes and damp ponytail, the 17-year-old is swaying like someone in a voodoo trance, brandishing glow sticks to carve arcs of light through the shooting lasers. Amanda, a Grade 12 student, is among some 7,500 young people—

a motley crowd dressed in brightly colored "rave" fashions that hang like socks and baseball caps—gathered to dance all morning in a cavernous Toronto exhibition hall. The sea of gyrating faces and flailing arms beats in sync with the jackhammer beats. Door-sized speakers pump out music so loud that it registers more through the sides of the face than the razed eardrums.

Hours later, sweat in glitter makeup and sweat. Amanda visits the "chill" section, a cool area just quiet enough for conversation. She and the other young people greet old friends and make new ones. Modern-day flower children, the kids exchange not just nods and handshakes but also hugs, kisses, manages, glow-in-the-dark toys, bracelets and candy. Then, in a corner of the women's washroom, Amanda introduces herself to a chubby 15-year-old girl named Mia.

"Hey, what's up?" says Amanda. "How long you been partying?"

"It's my second party," Mia replies, adding, "I had to sneak out of a window. My mom thinks I'm still home."

"No way! For real?" Amanda greets and gives her another hug. They exchange e-mail addresses.

It all seems sweetly innocuous. But then Amanda asks, "Are you doing?"—rave-speak for "Have you taken drugs?"—which draws a nod from Mia.

That many kids like Amanda and Mia do is the foremost concern of parents, police and legislators now that raves are so entrenched—and growing—part of youth culture. With the increased popularity of the all-night parties has come increased consumption of rave drugs, most notably the amphetamine-like substance MDMA, known in ecstasy or "E" (page 44). Their use is by no



Toronto ravers: the parties are celebrations of youthful exuberance, gatherings of the headbangers

COURTESY OF MONTANA



Because of the drugs, the deaths and the all-night aspect, 'rave' has become a red-flag word for parents

means confined to raves—those ruminations can be found at concerts, nightclubs and those private parties. But whenever they are taken, they can be deadly. Rave has been implicated in at least 14 Canadian deaths in the past two years—19 in Ontario, three in British Columbia and one in Manitoba. The victims ranged in age from 19 to 43, but most were in their 20s. One of the latest was 21-year-old Allan Hlo, a business student at Ryerson Polytechnic University, who collapsed at a rave in a former shoe factory last Oct. 10. Traces of MDMA were found in his body. A coroner's inquest into his death began on May 3 will look at overall safety issues surrounding raves (page 41).



Many more kids have become sick from rave drugs. Earlier this month in Edmonton, at a rave at Northlands Sports attended by more than 5,000 people, eight paramedics suffered seizures and had to be taken to hospital.

Because of the drugs, because of the inherently wasteful aspect of holding raves in a hall, far from government oversight, rave has become one of those red-flag words. "Oh, my God, I went to death who goes on at these things," says 44-year-old Jean Cassinara, a mother-in-law of a Vancouver 18-year-old daughter, Holly, who goes to raves. "I know all the trouble I got in at her age, but I also know that nothing could have happened me—and I expect nothing will happen."

Party scenes, semi-participants say, commercialize and make raves more about the joy and romance

Some and Severino, raves are one-off celebrations of youthful exuberance, gatherings of the idealistic tribe. They draw anywhere from hundreds to thousands, most between the ages of 15 and 29, to party to electronic music played and sometimes created by DJs using synthesizers and samplers. Much like

their hippie predecessors, ravers preach peace, love and unity, and eschew violence. Unlike the counterculture of yore, they focus on alcohol. "You can develop a sense of community," observes 26-year-old Wei Ching, a corporate lawyer in a downtown Toronto law firm who's been going at least once a month for the past four years. Ching, also a founding member of the Toronto Dance Safety Committee, which helped set up protocols for the safe operation of raves, says they "have made me more open-minded and accepting of others—no one cares about colour, sex or age."

Some raves, however, believe the scene is living in joy and innocence. They are commercialized, profit-making venues often creating unsafe conditions, and the gangs that have taken control of rave drugs, adding more lethal substances to the psychedelic menu. "There's no vice anymore," complains Mike Whalley, a 29-year-old Toronto DJ, referring to a sense of positive energy and goodwill. "I remember a time when I'd go there and just feel happy—no drugs, just the music, and everybody was happy."

In trouble or not, raves are common in major cities across the nation. There are parties almost every Saturday in Toronto, considered by many devoted to be the rave capital of North America. Last Halloween, in the largest rave ever in Canada, about 16,000 gathered in a Toronto entertainment complex. These events attract people from as far away as Wisconsin and New York City. Meanwhile, more rave dance riffs drew massive weekends in the Vancouver area. Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal and Halifax, and less often in smaller cities. Yet the events still draw only a tiny fraction of young Canadians. A recent Angus Reid survey into youth trends and values found that the top per cent of 3,800 subjects aged 16 to 29 had attended one or more raves in the past year, and only one per cent went to them on a regular basis. Applied to the overall population, these findings mean roughly 90,000 Canadians are committed ravers.

The numbers are substantial enough, however, for raves to be the focus of big business, both legitimate and illicit. With sales running from \$25 to \$30, rave organizers stand to win—or lose—as much as \$40,000 from one rave alone. Raves have also spawned numerous spinoff enterprises, including shops selling in rave music and gear.

Trafficking in ecstasy and other rave drugs, meanwhile, has become a societal epidemic. By no means are all those pills, vials and capsules being consumed at raves, but their association with the all-night parties—and the deaths—have made rave a hot-button issue in municipal politics across the country. Vancouver and Toronto have both asked councillors to help regulate raves, and Calgary is considering doing the same. Toronto raves must now adhere to safety protocols and guidelines pertaining to water,



security and numbers, though they are difficult to enforce.

In many ways, the concerns raised over the rave scene are not that much different than for rock concerts in the 1970s," says Edward Adlaf, a research scientist at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health in Toronto. Adlaf maintains it's a myth that everyone who attends raves is a heavily into hard drugs, citing his organization's ongoing study of drug use in middle- and high-school students, which found that 37 per cent of students who had attended a rave in the past year had used cannabis but no other illegal substance. But two-thirds of those who had been to a rave are heavier drug users than non-ravers. And 4-4 per cent of all the students surveyed had taken ecstasy in the past year. He does concede, however, that the

health threat, control, with Kullback (top left), Chris (top) pointing to positive aspects.

study, based on voluntary disclosure, comes with a degree of underreporting.

Meanwhile, 30 per cent of the students in Adlaf's study had had one heavy-drinking episode in the past four weeks alone. And he notes that young people are far more likely to coast themselves short- or long-term harm with the much more pervasive drug alcohol and alcohol. Despite the far greater risk involved with alcohol abuse, Adlaf's nonbillion very concerned about ravers buying drugs increasingly cut with potent chemicals, or mixing substances to create a lethal dose. He also notes that illegal crowding and a lack of training water in many rave parties is a risk. Water, experts say, is crucial. Without it, a person cannot control the body heat generated by rave drugs and dancing, and the heat and dehydration can shut down. Until recently in Toronto, some landlords who had reinforced the right to self-water would cut off the water supply and air-conditioning in order to prevent a sale.

Informed kids like Amanda make use in drink consistently, convinced they will protect them. "And I only do E," she says, taking a break from playing with her tongue out. "I don't touch any of the other stuff." She's referring to drugs like gamma hydroxy-butyrate, sold also known as GHB, one of the so-called acid-free drugs, and Ketamine, an animal tranquillizer known as "Special K." Highly addictive crystal meth-

An inquiry into the agony of ecstasy

Karen Kelly's death got the most headlines, but Allan Hlo's case is considered the most typical. Both of the 21-year-old Ontarians had been to raves, and both had taken the drug ecstasy. The bookish Kelly, a native of Birmingham, disappeared last summer from an outdoor rave held near Shibley Beach, a popular Lake Huron holiday spot 250 km northwest of Toronto. For a month, his unquipped father carried on a highly publicized search—and Kelly's body was finally found in a desert basin about two km metres from the rave site. Hlo, a business student at Ryerson Polytechnic University, collapsed at a Toronto rave in a former shoe factory last October. Rushed to hospital, he lay unconscious for 14 hours, and then died.

The two deaths added to the provincial coroner's growing file on ecstasy-related deaths. By the end of 1999, the toll in Ontario, home in more raves than any other province, had reached nine for the year (with just one other in the rest of Canada). That number marked the sudden emergence of a new way of dying—in 1998 Ontario had recorded only one ecstasy-related death, its first ever—and prompted the coroner's office to call an inquest, scheduled to begin in Toronto on May 3. The inquest will focus on Hlo, because the coroner considers him the most representative of the rave Ontario cases. All were healthy males between 19 and 28, and most died at raves in the Toronto area. But the inquest will also look at the entire urban rave scene and its dangers.



Coroner Ontario is on track to launch last year's toll

Adding to deputy chief coroner Jim Carroll's sense of urgency is the fact that two more such deaths have already been confirmed in 2000 and another suspected, pending a post-mortem on track to reach or exceed last year's total. "Look, I know this is not the most dangerous thing going on," Carroll allows. "Many times the young people die from alcohol every year. But it is now, it's concerning, and we need to collect what we know and make it public."

That means Hlo's inquest will have a broad mandate, Carroll says. "It will examine not just his death, but the larger questions about money, by being away from police about the problems they deal with, and from medical professionals about what they see in emergency rooms on weekends." It's an exercise in public health and safety that Carroll hopes will help keep others from the fate of Karen Kelly and Allan Hlo.

Brian Beshaw

amphetamine, a type of speed also called "ice," has also become popular. "With such drugs, the trip from euphoria to overdose can be swift—especially when kids combine substances, as they often do. 'I don't like the cards,' says 18-year-old Chris Austin as he drags on a marijuana joint and points to some kids lying on the floor. "They're the people who take too much drugs and are stupid." Says an anonymous Ananda, "People have offered me Special K, and Du like, 'Get incofficient? Do I look like a cat to you?' No way."

Those dangers aside, teens protest that their culture is about the music and the low-key fun, not drugs. "I found a family at raves," says Becky, a 19-year-old Toronto student who attended her first one in 1994. Taken into foster care at age 12, she says she kept going because of the accepting environment. But for a few years, Becky took ecstasy every other week, and she still indulges every couple of months. "I respect myself and my body," she says, "but everybody does something that's bad for them."

Kids see raves as mini-vacations from school and family stresses

Given the rave-drug equation, many parents simply flinched their children from going. Others—baby boomers who remember the excesses of the Sixties and Seventies—believe it's pointless to try to deny young people their own ritual celebrations, or even their own drugs. Rebecca Kervin turned to accompany her three children (Chris, 20, Kathleen, 17, and Ashley, 15) to raves five months ago. "At least I know where my kids are," says the 43-year-old Toronto single mother, who owns a landscaping company. "I know what they do and what they're on. We've sat down at a family and discussed it. As long as everything is in moderation and we're open about it, I'm not worried." Inside, it's quick to point out one positive aspect: "The kids are wonderful. They're never any fights or bullying. Everyone's friendly and respectful of one another."

Rose Ke, a federal civil servant, sometimes accompanies daughter Danielle, 17, to raves, where the teen and her best friend, Meghan Shepherd, have for the past two years operated a booth selling jewelry, toys and clothing they make themselves. "I was amazed," the 40-

year-old mother says of her first rave experience. "Usually kids can be so judgmental and cruel to each other, but there was none of that. There weren't no bitches. It reminded me of the hippie age."

Many events assuage the self-expression that is central to the culture. So-called candy raves cultivate a childlike look, dressing in bright colours and big hats and decking themselves with toys and candy. "Lagged kids" wear white gloves and move in a fluid, mime-like fashion. Dancing at raves is less regimented than at clubs: people don't need to pair off as they move in quirky, even comical, ways. The clothes tend to be less and comfortable rather than sexually provocative.

Sociologist Tina Weber, who authored a 1999 study on raves for Toronto's Centre for Addiction & Mental Health, notes that today's teens are looking for positive experiences to offset the comparatively stressful climate they've grown up in. "I was surprised at the number of kids in high school who saw raves as mini-vacations away from daily stresses," says Weber, who is now working for the pollster Angus Reid. "Stress enjoyed being allowed to act like small children, doing things like wearing costumes, eating candy and playing with toys." Raised by dance-it-all, seen-it-all boomer, they are also the generation that grew up with latch-key-ism, AIDS, the dominance of clothing brands and the pressure to start planning a career during adolescence. Jessica Haffert, a 13-year-old Toronto skateboarder, says of the rave she saw with a friend and attended four years ago: "We walked in and saw people dressed and just moving in ways we'd never seen before. There was a bubble machine, toys and rubbing on the ceiling filled with keratin-cent grease—a facility quality to the whole thing. 'Where else are you going to not shut?'"

Shawn Parsons, now 33, has worked in security since he was 15.

End of the party: roughly 50,000 Canadians are convicted ravers

first in clubland, and since 1993, at raves with his own security company. "At a bar on any given night, you can guarantee a member of my staff will be physically attacked," says the burly Toronto father of three preteen children. "With raves, that just doesn't happen. The parties attract the same group of people as they always have: intelligent, respectful kids who feel the outsiders in the real world."

Often, raves get an undesired bad rap because of confusion over what they are. A Vancouver shooting in early February, reported to be at a rave, was in fact occurred outside a Chinese new year party at a banquet hall, and was gang-related. "When you're seeing a home-grown reaction where they're calling everything a rave," says Sgt. Steve Clark, in charge of downtown special events for Toronto police. "Misinformation, sensational headlines don't necessarily fit any better in terms of safety. Last year, the 1,800-capacity Toronto club The Government was the source of 37 emergency calls on

Friday and Saturday nights—34 medical problems, seven acts of violence and six accidental overdoses. At the Toronto rave attended by 16,000 last Halloween, there was just one emergency call when a table fell on a person's leg."

At 734 am, Ananda is waiting for friends at the rave check as orange sunlight filters into the hall. The music is still loud, but most of the few hundred kids remaining have put on their coats and are dancing their way across the mesh-screen floor towards the exit. Ananda and her pals are about to go to one of their homes to talk or listen to music as they come down off the drugs. Soon, there will be another rave, another all-nighter. "I won't become a bum and do this when I get old like 35," she shrugs. "But for now that's what it's about."

With Rick Asherby in Vancouver

Wild ones through the ages

Some of the youth movements that have captivated Aids—and, in most cases, astonished parents—over the past 80 years



FLAPPERS 1920s

Music: Dixieland
Look: short, bobbed hair and skimpy dresses for women, fedoras for men
Drug of choice: alcohol and mild yeast oven and dieting
Ritual: dance-hall parties and the Charleston

SWING KIDS 1940s

Music: big band jazz
Look: sleekly styled hairdos, fitted blouses and skirts for women, pleated trousers and sports jackets, or the slanket of Joe look for men
Drug of choice: alcohol and cigarettes
Ritual: music-hall parties and calling a rug with the jive and the jitterbug

ROCK 'N' ROLLERS 1960s

Music: Elvis Presley and other early rockers, Paul Anka
Look: bouffant hairdos and bobby socks for women, greasy ducktails and white T-shirts for men
Drug of choice: alcohol and cigarettes
Ritual: parties in distended red taverns, group sessions to drink and pool halls, high-school discos

HIPPIES 1960s

Music: folk and acid rock, the Beatles
Look: tie-dyed garments, ethnic wear, jeans, bell-bottoms, miniskirts



Drug of choice: just about everything legal and illegal mind-altering drug going

Ritual: love-ins, happenings, rock concerts and festivals

DISCO DIAMONDS 1970s

Music: raucous dance music
Look: platform shoes, bed shirts, big collars, hair

Drug of choice: cannabis, heroin, speed, alcohol
Ritual: concerts and mob pits

HIP-HOP AIDS 1980s TO PRESENT

Music: rap music
Look: extremely baggy sportswear, sometimes worn backwards
Drug of choice: cannabis, crack
Ritual: parties, concerts

tops and hot pants
Drug of choice: cannabis, cocaine, heroin, alcohol
Ritual: dancing till you dropped at discotheques



PUNKERS LATE-1970s TO MID-1980s

Music: the Sex Pistols and other punk rock
Look: safety pins, mohawks, studded leather

Drug of choice: cannabis, heroin, speed, alcohol
Ritual: concerts and mob pits

HIP-HOP AIDS 1980s TO PRESENT

Music: rap music
Look: extremely baggy sportswear, sometimes worn backwards
Drug of choice: cannabis, crack
Ritual: parties, concerts

THE DARK SIDE OF ECSTASY



It has become the millennial "it" drug, but researchers stumbled upon what is now known as ecstasy by accident 88 years ago. While developing Hydrastinine, a never-marketed blood-vessel constrictor, German chemists created MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine). The substance was patented and shelved, and did not pop up again until the 1950s, when it was tested on animals as part of the CIA's mind-control experiments. By the mid-1970s, however, the substance had a following among American therapists. Some swore the "bag drug" was worth months or years of intensive therapy, and lauded its unique ability to induce empathy and release buried emotions. They administered half a million doses of MDMA over the course of a decade, until the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration made it illegal in 1985, after it had become popular on campuses and in dance

clubs, which regulate mood, sex drive, appetite and sleep. Scientists are also thought to be associated with the high of being in love. That MDMA-qualified range of the feel-good chemical leads to elation, heightened senses and increased energy. It can also backfire. Those on some antidepressants or with heart problems are at greatest risk, but every user is in danger of overheating. MDMA interferes with the body's ability to regulate internal temperature. If users fail to drink enough water and take rest breaks from dancing, they can suffer extreme heat stroke leading to seizures, kidney and liver failure, and, possibly, death. Yet a smaller number of cases on ecstasy—including two in Canada—have died from consuming too much water and failing to urinate, which led to either brain swelling from reduced sodium levels in the blood, or ruptured blood vessels.

Research's long-term effects, if any, are a matter of dispute. Some researchers believe that MDMA can permanently destroy serotonin receptors, causing chronic depression, anxiety and reduced ability to concentrate. But overall, many consider MDMA one of the more benign illicit drugs. "It causes relatively fewer problems," says Cpl. Jocelyn Chagnon of the RCMP's Drug Awareness Service in Montreal, noting that ecstasy is non-violent and physically non-addictive. "Some of the problems and deaths are due to the confusion that happens when kids really don't

know what they put in their mouths. It may be unknowingly or knowingly mixed with more damaging drugs." Half the pills and capsules said to contain MDMA or MDA that the RCMP seized in 2005 in the past year and a half contained other drugs. Of the half that contained MDMA or MDA, only 24 per cent was pure.

Despite the danger, ecstasy still has great word of mouth. "I felt appreciation of everything—family, friends, myself," says Eric Malinac, 20, a business student at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont. "What you see on TV, you perceive all the good in the world." But for those who suffer adverse effects, ecstasy can be the grimmest trip of all.

Susan Oh

YOUNG AND RECKLESS

It's been more than seven months since 23-year-old Jaimie Britten died of an ecstasy overdose at a rave in an industrial park on the outskirts of Halifax. But back in his Cape Breton home town of Port Hawkesbury, Jaimie's parents are still in mourning.

The young man's handsome mother, Michelle, 40, told *Maclean's* that while she still misses Robert Garthoff, her son, his death has moved her faith in God. She speaks of longing to hold the eldest of her three sons "just one more time." His father, Mark, keeps wondering why the tragedy had to happen. But neither parent believes that never see the culprit, or that they should be blamed. "You're just going to push them underground," says Mark, a 47-year-old construction worker. "Young people need something to do. When I was young, I used to go to the Atlantic Folk Festival and things like that, and there were drugs around. But so were police and ambulances in case somebody got into trouble."

By all accounts, Jaimie was a new-comer to raves and ecstasy. A friendly guy with a goatee and a chunky weight-lifter's body, he lived in Port Hawkesbury with his fiancée, Helen Nicolson, who gave birth to their daughter, Raya, in March. He liked football and with eight engines, crushing hockey and high-school football—and having a little fun on weekends off from his job in the parent department at a local home-improvement centre. Last Sept. 31, he left Nicolson at their apartment and joined the 100 or so young people from town heading to Halifax to hear Los Angeles DJ Christopher Lawrence and a host of local fireworks. Two months earlier, Britten had been to one other rave where 100 people showed up to party and dance. But the Halifax event, with 3,000 in attendance, was something different altogether.

According to court evidence, at 11:50 p.m. Britten bought two ecstasy pills from a friend named Robert Bedford, who



Britten (left). Nicolson: No father wonders why there were no police or ambulances on standby at the rave

was subsequently convicted of trafficking. When he asked for more, Bedford refused. Nonetheless, Britten got his hands on more of the drug, and later began to experience distress. By about 2:30 a.m., he was moaning, incoherently and sweating profusely, and the security guards took him outside to cool off. When paramedics from Halifax's Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre arrived 25 minutes later, Britten showed no sign of life. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. Toxicologists later said the ecstasy level in his blood was 2.3 mg per litre; people have died from as little as 0.1 mg per litre in their system.

On Feb. 18, Bedford, 21, was sentenced to 150 hours of community service. Challenging the sentence was too tedious, the Crown launched an appeal that will be heard on Sept. 12, the first anniversary of Britten's death. The death has spurred a backlash against ecstasy and its users. Frantic Chambers, staff sergeant in charge of the Halifax police special enforcement section, says his department has received many complaints in the past few months from parents and younger people about money lost at raves, which are held several times a month in the Halifax area. Police attempts to crack down have drawn complaints from the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, which often allegedly overreacts to searches during an undercover sting at a Jan. 29 rave in Halifax.

Mark Britten, meanwhile, believes kids cannot always be stopped from doing reckless things, and he advocates more safeguards. "Jaimie would still be alive if there was an ambulance nearby," he says. "My son died because there was no help for him."

John DeMott in Halifax



French customs officers at the Eindhoven airport in 1988 with 367,856 tabs of ecstasy and 10 kilos of cocaine seized from a truck; ecstasy brings euphoria, but can also cause death by overheating

clubs (it is now banned everywhere except The Netherlands). Now, ecstasy is rattling cocaine as the second most popular recreational drug—after marijuana—not only among teens, but also club-goers, college pumpkins and even, perhaps, that nice middle-class couple next door.

Police say the manufacturing, smuggling and availability of ecstasy are booming. In the past 15 months, the RCMP has seized about half a million pills and capsules of MDMA and the similar but stronger MDA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine). The DEA has confiscated more than three million doses of MDMA since January. Today-related deaths are increasing, though the total number for Canada—at least 17—is low compared with mortality rates for other drugs.

Ecstasy causes release of the neurotransmitter serotonin,

Swweeeeeeeeeeepp!!



(Back row from left) McLaughly, Stuart Pimm, Bryan Mills and Judy Strohman; (front) Law, Julie Skerwin, Georgina Wozniak and Diane Nelson, winners

These are heady times for British Columbia curlers. Never mind that B.C. risks losing national bragging rights by winning the Laker-Brier and Scott Tournament of Hearts, respectively. Last week, Kelly Law's Richmond rink and Greg McLaughly's New Westminster foursome captured the women's and men's world championships in Glasgow. And earlier this season, a crew skipped by Brad Kuhn of Kelowna won the world junior title. "It's amazing we got the men's and women's and the junior men's and all out of B.C.," McLaughly said after defeating Sweden 9-4 in the final.

The Canadian women had a tougher time before outlasting Switzerland 7-6 in a three-hour battle. "There's a certain amount of pressure on Canada to win at the world," said a relieved Law. "It's just not that we care though." There was another reason why the women wanted it so much:

they dedicated the win to the late Regina skip Sandra Schreiner, who died of cancer in February. "It means a lot for us to bring it back to Canada for her," Law said.

She shoots, she studies

The heroine of Canada's come-from-behind 3-2 victory last week at the Women's World Hockey Championships in Minneapolis, Ore., had little time to celebrate. Jenna Hefford, 22, of Kingston, Ont., scored two third-period goals against the United States to force overtime and set the stage for teammate Nancy Durock's game-winner. But once the cheering stopped, Hefford, a University of Toronto phys-ed student, had to crash for seven hours after two weeks of missed classes during the tourney. And with an eye on the 2002 Olympics, Hefford plans to further hone her game. "There are more and better players," she says. "It's getting tougher every year just to make the team."



Hefford (left): third-period star



Del Mar, doesn't fit Hispanic stereotype

La vida Latina

Actress Maria Del Mar is a Latin-Canadian best known for playing WASPy characters. When she auditioned for the film *Price of Glory*, a drama about a family of Latino boxers in Arizona, the director asked if she was sure she was Hispanic. "I know I don't look like the stereotype," laughs Del Mar, who was born in Madrid and moved to Ottawa at age 5. "But I got past that hurdle when he realized my Spanish was better than his."

Price of Glory is Del Mar's first feature film after starring in the TV series *Seven Legal* and making guest appearances on *The Practice* and *Twister*. In the film, which also stars Jimmy Smits, Del Mar's role is limited to a handful of lines—but she isn't complaining. "I played the mom and wife," she says, "so everyone had to love me."

d i g i t a l r e v o l u t i o n

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For most people, computers and the Internet go together like wine and cheese, movies and popcorn, and padlocks. But the "post-PC era" is closing in on us.

Digi-Fox

Approximately 21 per cent of Canadian adults with access to the Internet have purchased goods or services online at least once.

Source: IDC Canada

advertising
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Japan's CommuniCell predicts that by 2003, more people will access the Internet via wireless devices such as cell phones and pocket computers than through a PC. International Data Corporation (IDC) predicts shipments of Web-enabled cell phones, pocket computers, TV set-top boxes and other "Internet-enabled" devices will surpass PC shipments by the middle of next year in the United States. James Ward, telecommunications analyst for IDC Canada in Toronto, says Canada is lagging behind the trend by 12 to 18 months.

Canadians have been able to send and receive e-mail from cell phones for over a year. Investors can use cell phones and two-way pagers to trade stocks wirelessly. And now Canadians can use browser-equipped cell phones to order books and records over the Internet. Soon there will be Internet-based services that enable you to purchase snacks from vending machines using your cell phone.

New pocket-sized electronic organizers let business users get information from their offices over the Internet, through either public telephone or wireless networks. When they need a break, they can use the same device to listen to music or read a book that they have downloaded from the Net.

Photography companies are deploying services that let you share your pictures electronically with friends and family all over the world — even if they don't have a PC. Airlines are introducing Internet-based services that let you board your flight without standing in long check-in queues.

The digital revolution is also coming to our TVs. Later this year, cable TV companies will start deploying set-top boxes with Internet capability. They are also introducing video-on-demand services that let you order a movie or special program, then watch it, pause it, replay it — just as you would a regular video-taped movie.

Meanwhile, discrete-quality pictures and sound are coming to our televisions in the form of digital high-definition TV, now being deployed by Canada's satellite-TV companies.

You don't even have to be on your couch to be a couch potato. With new portable DVD players, you can enjoy theatre-quality movies on the go.

So where is the digital revolution going? Everywhere.

Digital Facts

The total value of Canadian e-commerce will grow from \$11.5 billion in 1999 to \$21 billion this year, and almost \$100 billion in 2003. *Source: e-Commerce Canada.*

advertising
supplement



E-Business Everywhere

E-Commerce means a lot more than using your PC to buy books and records.

One of the most striking aspects of air travel is standing in a long check-in line, worrying about missing your flight. But an e-commerce initiative by Air Canada is helping solve travellers' problems: those queues. Passengers flying from Pearson International Airport in Toronto can purchase electronic tickets from a travel agent or the Air Canada Web site, then use the ticket as a check-in kiosk at the airport to obtain a boarding pass. The process takes only about 20 seconds.

Air Canada plans to roll this service as all the airports it serves, says Jan Ingratta, director of e-business consulting and services for IBM Canada Global Services, which developed the airline's automated check-in system.

"E-business is about more than buying books and T-shirts online," Ingratta says. "It's about pervasive access. It's about always being plugged in." Ingratta says we're rapidly moving to a world where Internet access is available everywhere we go. We will expect Internet access throughout our homes, just as we expect electricity and running water. Our kitchens may have Internet-equipped fridges and telephones, making it easier to order groceries.

"Whenever commerce takes place, there's an opportunity for e-commerce," says Brenda Phipps, marketing manager, Internet solutions, for Compus Canada Inc. Those opportunities extend from very large business-to-business transactions to very small consumer-to-business transactions. In Scotland, people are already using Internet-enabled cell phones to buy soft drinks from vending machines. Myra Scott, After they indicate what drinks they want, she swipes their cell phone keypad, their phone sends the request to

Chapters Inc., Canada's #1 book retailer, needed an e-commerce solution that would expand its customer base and retain loyal shoppers while minimizing the cost of going online quickly.

How

an electronic shopping cart helped Jim spot a Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The answer was an innovative electronic storefront — a user-friendly Web site developed with Microsoft, a Microsoft partner in Toronto. Customers can easily purchase millions of books and products thanks to a sophisticated shopping cart system that allows easy price look-ups, product and price promotions, inventory assessments, and shipping and handling information, all built with Microsoft technology*. Plus, it's scalable and flexible which means the whole system grows as sales do.

Now the Web site, Chapters.ca, is a leading Internet destination. It's fast, informative, easy to navigate and it can quickly absorb surges in traffic. It's proven to be extremely successful with Canadians, because now they can spot the right books from just about anywhere in Canada.

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the machine using an infrared eye (just like the ones in your TV remote control), and at the same time sends instructions over the Internet to their bank telling it to pay for the beverage.

"With our banking system, we're in a very good position in Canada to allow micro-commerce," Myers says. He predicts these sorts of services will be available in Canada within a year.

Canada's banking system is also allowing the development of Internet-based systems for paying for very large business-to-business transactions, including cross-border transactions, Myers notes. These applications allow businesses to safely clear transactions, such as product procurement, over the Internet. "Procurement is the exact kind of e-business transaction to me," Myers says. "It's going to spin the globe."

International Data Corporation (Canada) Ltd. (IDC Canada) predicts that Canadian business-to-consumer e-commerce will exceed \$12 billion in 2000 from \$1.5 billion in 1999. That is dwarfed by business-to-business e-commerce, which is growing from \$10 billion in 1999 to \$38 billion in 2000.

Joe Greene, vice-president, telecom and Internet research for IDC Canada, is encouraged by the number of Canadian retailers with e-commerce initiatives. A study last year found that 63 per cent of the money spent by Canadians online was going to American merchants. "I think we'll find that's the money flowing south," Greene predicts. "There's a greater variety of Canadian Web sites. The majority of Canadians want to shop at home."

Adel Pukis, a partner in the Toronto management consulting practice of Deloitte & Touche, says 100 mostly Canadian businesses are "taking a complicated outlook" to e-commerce. Fewer than half the companies surveyed for the firm's "E-Business Readiness Survey" are using the Internet to attract customers. Among the companies who are conducting e-business over the Internet, only 30 per cent agreed that their Web sites are effective places to conduct business.

"There's a significant risk associated with being a laggard, especially in an export-based economy," Pukis warns. "When companies are competing in a global marketplace, to the extent that they fall behind, there is a significant impact in their ability to retain wealth — not just customers, but employees as well."



More Than Just Talk

Cellphone services that put the Net in the palm of your hand.

Nettase tells you are someone tapping for minutes at an end on a cell-phone keypad, do not assume she is dialing a long overseas number. She could be carrying out a stock trade over the Internet, sending e-mail, ordering a book or checking the status of an incoming flight.

Canada's four wireless carriers already let subscribers receive e-mail on their handsets. They are now deploying services that will let users view Web content over wireless. Bell Mobility recently introduced the NextFast instant phone. The \$499 handset functions as both a phone and pocket computer: it can store names, addresses, phone numbers and appointments, synthesizing this information with your PC. Its 11-line screen is better for e-mail than the feature screen on most lower-equipped phones. But it is still too small for full-fledged Web-browsing. However, Bell Mobility has partnered with several Web sites to deliver content tailored for mobile phone users, so you can check the news and sports scores on Yahoo! or CANOE, get a phone number from Yellow Pages Express, and order books from amazon.com.

"Wireless Internet has gone just being something that's coming to being something that's just arrived," says David Neale, vice-president, new product development for Rogers AT&T Wireless. He predicts people will use different types of devices for wireless access to the Internet. There are wireless modems and connection kits for notebook and pocket computers. Rogers AT&T Wireless has just introduced the BlackBerry Internet Edition, a tiny two-way pager that lets you surf the Web, and send and receive Web-based e-mail.

6

For wireless surfing to be satisfying, Web sites have to tailor their content for mobile devices, Neale notes. That is not happening nearly as fast in North America as in Europe and the Pacific Rim countries. In Japan, there are 6,000 Web sites targeted at mobile users, offering everything from banking services to ski updates to Pokémon paraphernalia.

Jon Prid, director of marketing for IBM's pervasive computing division, points to several European businesses that are using mobile data services to build customer loyalty. In December, Swissair introduced a service that lets travellers in Zurich check into their flights before arriving at the airport using a special cell phone. The phone screen confirms their flight info, and explains how to pick up a boarding pass. Likewise, a British grocery chain is providing select customers with Palm computers. They can create shopping lists and place orders over the Internet. "Businesses will be compelled to deliver applications to these devices," says Prid, whose division recently introduced WebSphere Everywhere. Software that helps companies tailor their Web content for mobile devices.

Charlotte Banks, vice-president of services development for Bell Mobility, says we will see "location-based" mobile Internet services in the next two years. "If you're in a strange city and you want to know where the nearest bank machine is, the service will be able to figure out where you are, and use the Net to tell you how to find a bank machine."

Besides the small screen, another reason Web content has to be simplified for mobile devices is the fact that data transmission speeds are very slow over wireless networks. They max out at 14.4 kilobits per second, slower than a regular phone modem or the new high-speed Internet services. Following the deployment of third-generation (3G) wireless networks, wireless data speeds will go much faster.

Rogers AT&T Wireless demonstrated 3G technology in Montreal in February, showing how it would be possible to transmit moving video over wireless networks. Neale says these high-speed wireless services are "two years from prime-time. When that happens, the device is no longer a phone. It's a communications. You can use it with ear buds and hold it in front of you. The person on the other end can follow you around, and you are able to see them on the screen in front of you."

Even before 3G becomes commercially available, there will be some compelling Internet services aimed at mobile users, Neale adds: "There's a lot of money and creativity in the Internet world. They view wireless as the next big frontier."

Jordan Worth, telecommunications analyst at IDC Canada, says the main application for wireless data right now is stock trading. You have to need information pretty quickly to pay 15 cents a minute to surf the Web, he notes. Wireless data speeds have to go faster, handset designs and mobile Internet uses have to get easier to use for wireless data to have broad appeal.

By 2003, 16.6 million Canadians — roughly half the population — will have wireless phones. That is what 3G wireless technology will be broadly available, "for half the population. 3G will be a quantum leap forward," Worth says. "That's when wireless data will really take off."



Always Organized

Tiny computers that put your *to-do* list on your pocket.

Microsoft has a reputation for dominating any market it enters. Nevertheless, when it comes to the pocket-sized computer, Microsoft is still a distant second to Palm Inc.

Palm's handheld computers store appointments, contacts, to-do lists and other information. You enter information by drawing on the Palm's screen, using a stylus alphabet called "Graffiti" or by tapping on an onscreen "soft keyboard." You can also enter information as your PC. When you put the Palm into its desktop cradle, information on your Palm and PC is synchronized.

P A G E 7

Digital Fact

Currently cell phones are used by 29 per cent of Canadians. By 2003, 16.8 million Canadians, roughly half the population, will be using mobile phones.

Source: IDC Canada

Digital Fact

In Japan, there are 6,000 Web sites targeted at mobile users, offering everything from banking services to ski updates to Pokémon paraphernalia.

Source: Rogers AT&T Wireless

The original Palm Pilot appeared in 1996 about the same time as handheld computers based on Microsoft's Windows CE software. Because they used tiny keyboards, Windows CE handheld computers were larger than Palm's products. Windows CE "Palm-size PCs" with a form factor similar to the Palm's, arrived in mid-1998.

According to Toronto-based Evans Research Corp., Palm accounted for more than 80 per cent of the 163,000 pocket-sized computers sold across Canada throughout 1999.

In April, next-generation Windows CE-based Pocket PCs are being introduced by Casio, Compaq and Hewlett-Packard. Microsoft believes these new Pocket PCs trump Palm's sales in several ways. Pocket PCs offer the same core functions – address book, appointment book-to-do list – as Palm. They also "pocket" versions of office software, so you can view and edit Microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheets. These new devices let you enter information using handwriting characters, or a soft keyboard.

Pocket PC also has a built-in Web browser. Put a modem (wireless or landline) into the memory-card slot, and you are ready to surf. Admittedly, the unit's small colour screen is far from ideal for Web-browsing – even with the Clear Type feature that helps small text be more readable and a full-screen feature that reformats Web pages for the device.

The Palm VII, due for release in Canada later this year, will also offer wireless access to the Web – but just to a limited amount of Web content clipped for its small screen. It will use a feature called clipping, so that it can get the essential information, rather than large graphics that the device cannot handle.

New services like Avango (<http://avango.com>) are delivering Web content designed for small devices like Pocket PCs and Palm computers. Avango offers hundreds of different channels – specially formatted Web pages – including The New York Times and Wall Street Journal. You can download the content to your PC, transfer it to your portable device and read it – on the go.

Back in the office, you can synchronize your Pocket PC with your desktop computer, just as you would a Palm device. With Pocket PC, you can also access corporate networks directly – without connecting to a PC.

For fun and games, Pocket PCs have an edge over Palm computers. They have full stereo sound, so you can listen to MP3 music through headphones. Stereo sound also enhances games, such as Zoo Golf and Doom, that you can play on Pocket PC.

"Pocket PC puts business productivity tools like Word, Excel, Outlook and Internet Explorer in your pocket," says Elliot Katz, marketing manager, consumer Windows and Windows CE for Microsoft Canada Co. "You can take everything that's important for your day-to-day business and with a modem, you can get up-to-date information, or send e-mail and more."

Michael Moskowitz, president and general manager at Palm Canada Inc., says the large number of Palm accessories and software – everything from address books to cases and clips to wireless modems to battery-charger kits – give it an advantage over Pocket PC. "You can even buy a collapsible keyboard for your Palm computer. Some Pocket PC vendors say they will offer this option as well." Handspring and IBM have their own versions of the Palm computer. Cell-phone manufacturers such as Qualcomm have handsets with integrated Palm computers so you can place calls right from the Palm address book.

With Pocket PC, Microsoft is showing that it is serious about the pocket-computer market. Will it roll over Palm as it rolled over Netscape?

"Palm has such a huge following that it will be difficult for Pocket PC to make an impact," says Dave Amnagge, market analyst for Evans Research. "Palm has covered the key aspects – ease of use and a competitive price point." Everytime Palm computers sell for under \$300, Pocket PCs start at \$249. For that price, you get a unit with a bright colour screen (the Palm III, Palm's first colour model, retails for \$679), and a device that is more powerful and flexible than Palm computers. "But every user will be satisfied with a monochrome screen," he says.

TV Goes Digital

New technology is making TVs smarter and TV pictures better.

While the world has gone digital over the past two decades, television has remained rooted in the analog past. But that's changing. In the United States, over-the-air digital TV broadcasts began in

Digital Fact

Last year, 163,000 pocket-sized computers were sold in Canada. That market will grow to 250,000 units this year, according to Evans Research.

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November 1996. Digital TV (DTV) pictures are clearer than regular TV, because they are immune to picture-degrading interference. Standard-definition digital programs have the same amount of picture detail as today's analog pictures. High-definition (HDTV) programs have up to nine times as much detail. What's more, HDTV pictures are wider than the regular TV pictures, more like a movie-theatre screen than a conventional TV screen, which looks boxy by comparison. HDTV pictures are as vibrant and crisp-looking as the pictures you see in a good movie theatre.

In the United States, NBC shows *The Tonight Show* in HDTV, and will have HDTV broadcasts of the Summer Olympics this September. CBS carries prime-time shows like *Chicago Hope* and *JAG* in HDTV, as well as special events like the NCAA basketball final. Last fall, ABC carried Monday Night Football in HDTV, and rebroadcast the NFL season with an HDTV broadcast of the Super Bowl.

No Canadian broadcaster has yet announced plans to construct digital TV facilities. However, an experimental digital transmitter where Canadian broadcasters can test various aspects of the technology is now up and running in Ottawa.

Canada's two satellite-TV companies, Bell ExpressVu and Star One, are both rolling out HDTV channels to complement their 200+ odd channels of standard-definition TV. On these channels, they are carrying a selection of American HDTV programming. Both plan to carry NBC's HDTV broadcasts of the Olympic games.

To get HDTV over satellite, you need a dish antenna plus a satellite receiver with a special high-definition decoder. These packages sell for around \$3,000. You also need an "HD-ready" TV capable of displaying HDTV pictures. HD-ready sets with conventionally shaped screens show widescreen high-definition images in letter-box mode, with grey bars at the top

and bottom. Prices start at \$2,299 for a Proscan 32-inch direct-view set. Widescreen HD-ready sets show HDTV pictures in all their glory, but show regular programming in window-box mode, with grey bars on either side. Prices start at \$3,599 for a 40-inch Toshiba rear-projection set.

Most Canadian receive-TV programming over cable. Canada's two largest cable companies—Rogers and Shaw—have converted their facilities to digital. They say they will carry HDTV signals when there is enough high-definition programming to spur consumer demand.

Right now, cable companies are using digital technology to vastly increase the number of channels they carry, and to add new services. The cable boxes that deliver all these channels also have program guides to help you figure out what you want to watch. The new Rogers will add e-mail and Web-surfing capability to its digital cable boxes, says Derrick O'Carroll, senior vice-president, network engineering and operations at Rogers Cable Inc.

Later this year or early next year, Rogers will launch a video-on-demand service that lets you order a program, then watch it at your leisure. You can pause it if you need a break, rewind it if there's something you want to see again. "One of the real opportunities with video-on-demand is niche programming," O'Carroll says. "There's a lot of good content that you can't afford to broadcast, but that you can store on a server."

While we are waiting for high-definition television, the best couch potato experience comes from DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) movies. A DVD carries an entire movie in digital form, complete with digital surround sound. Many DVD movies are shown in widescreen mode. On a regular TV, you get a letterboxed picture, but on a widescreen set, you get a theatre-like widescreen image.

Digital Fact

Last year, 99,000 digital cameras went sold in Canada. For 2000, the market will grow 58 per cent, to 145,000 units.

(Source: Apco Research)

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The Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council is the national, non-profit, trade association that represents the motorcycle industry of the Canadian market.

DVD players have caught on like gangbusters. According to the Consumer Electronics Marketers of Canada (CEMC), 320,000 DVD players were sold in Canada in 1999, compared to 70,000 the year before. For this year alone, CEMC projects sales of 490,000 players.

Prices for DVD players start at around \$100. They will work with any TV if you want to watch movies away from home, you can do so on Panasonic's PalmTheatre DVD-LV 75 portable DVD player. The \$1,199 battery-operated unit has a built-in seven-inch screen, and audio circuitry that delivers theatre-like surround sound through headphones.

Every Picture Tells a Story

The Internet makes it easy to share pictures and home videos.

To most people, digital cameras and digital photography mean the same thing. Digital cameras capture images and light-sensing microchips, then store these images on memory chips. When you are finished shooting, you hook the digital camera up to your computer and transfer the images to the computer. With special software, you can remove flaws like red-eye, alter colour, add text, then print out your e-mail or incorporate it into a Web site.

Digital camera sales are skyrocketing. According to Toronto-based Data Research Corp., 91,000 digital cameras were sold in Canada last year, a 71 per cent jump over the previous year. For 2000, Data expects digital camera sales to grow almost 60 per cent, to 145,000 units.

"That's very small compared to film-based camera sales," notes Ric Dunn, market analyst at Data Research. "The cost of digital cameras is still pretty substantial." While you can purchase an entry-level digital camera for under \$500, you have to go to higher-resolution \$1,000-plus models to get the picture quality you get from a regular camera. Dunn estimates that 60 per cent of digital cameras are purchased for business use and 30 per cent for personal use. But, adds, "That will change over time."

John Gue, brand marketing manager for digital output products at Kodak Canada Inc., says digital cameras are making real inroads among consumers. The attractions, he says, are the ability to e-mail photos easily, and to edit them on computer.

But you do not need a digital camera to do digital photography, he adds. At thousands of retail locations, you can have film scanned to Picture CD when you take it in for processing. Or you can have images posted to the Kodak PhotoNet Web site, then download them to your PC. You can then print the images, or e-mail them to friends.

Many Kodak retailers also have PictureMaker kiosks where you can load images from slide, negative, print or disk, then make your own prints or stickers. This summer, Kodak will be connecting these kiosks to the Internet. When that happens, if you have your images scanned to PhotoNet and send your PhotoNet PIN to friends in other cities, they can go to a local PictureMaker retailer, look at the images and print the ones they like.

Apple is integrating its new digital cameras with the Internet. They include software that lets you upload your images to an Apple Web site, edit them online, then order professional prints.

Digital technology is also making it easier to share home videos. Apple's new DV (iMac computers come with iMovie software and a DV port for connecting a Digital Video (DV) camcorder. DV camcorders are available from Canon, JVC, Panasonic and Sony starting at around \$1,200. Being digital, they deliver better picture quality than analog 8mm and VHS camcorders. They can also copy and edit DV videos without the picture degradation that you get when you copy and edit analog videos.

"iMovie makes it very simple to create professional-looking videos," says Stan Oates, group product manager at Apple Canada Inc. "There are tutorials for a whole range of videos: family events, school projects, business training courses." The software automatically scans your DV camcorder tape for stills, breaks, and then copies the scenes to the computer. Users can cut extraneous material, arrange the scenes in the order they want, add title transitions between scenes, as well as music and voice-overs. They can then copy their creation to videotape and watch it on TV, or make a QuickTime video that they can post on a Web site. Apple offers a Web site where users can post their movies and share them for free, Oates says.

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Feud Without End

Frustrated bankers view a planned new law on mergers as political punishment from Ottawa

By Mary Javlin

The rift *simmer* like an Oshes feud. There is no doubt that Canada's big banks started their quest with Ottawa, incessantly announcing mergers before a merger policy issued. But two years later, the banks cannot placate their antiregulatory legislators. Ottawa is now drafting legislation that will impose a complicated approval process on any merger among the Big Five banks—and which will forbid the banks from joining with the two largest demutualized life insurance firms. Any bank pairing would require public hearings on virtually every aspect of the deal. Canada's banks, scrambling in legal status, are seething with frustration. "We are in a highly competitive game and we are hamstrung in our ability to deal with it," says Royal Bank CEO John Cleghorn. "Two years ago, we were put in the penalty box. What's the time limit on a penalty? Do you want to wreck a whole industry because of what happened then?"

The standoff is critical because the financial services sector plays an enormously pivotal role in the Canadian economy. It employs more than half a million Canadians, pays more than \$2 billion in annual taxes to all levels of government, exports nearly \$50 billion in services—and represents five per cent of Canada's gross domestic product. Its stability and strength are crucial to virtually every other aspect of the economy. From the banks' point of view, Ottawa is caught in a rare trap—while that would have changed with disconcerting speed. Since 1998, there have been numerous multi-billion-dollar mergers—with varying degrees of success—among financial institutions in Europe, the United States and Japan. The United States recently announced laws that permit cross-ownership of banks, insurance companies and brokerage firms, and which allow them to sell each other's products. Big is getting even bigger. "We are basically stuck in the hand-

light," observes former Bank of Canada governor John Crow. "We have got to think more about how we can get a financial system that is going to be viable in a global economy."

Ottawa, however, has not forgotten the banks' past high-handed behavior. In response, it is making for time until it can lure more domestic—and foreign—competition into the marketplace. The banks saw difficulty. First, before there was a merger policy, they brazenly concluded mergers: the Bank of Montreal with the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Toronto-Dominion Bank with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Then, they complacently talked about why their plans were good for themselves, virtually ignoring consumers. By the time Finance Minister Paul Martin rejected the deals in December, 1998, Toronto-based pollster Pollara Inc. had determined that two-thirds of Canadians strongly opposed them. "The banks have done it to themselves," says Wendy Dobson, director of the University of Toronto's Institute for International Business. "Financial services policy in Canada is still being driven by the political backlash."



The CIBC's staff have always been the ones who got needed.

Emotions are running high. While most bankers and politicians refuse to comment publicly about the legislation, their behind-the-scenes posturing about each other can be volatile. The handful of politicians and civil servants who suspect that the bill may already be out of date will not speak out; they are hoping it will simply die on the order paper if an election is held this fall. A few brave souls on both sides are trying to make peace. "We finally realize,"

insists a federal official, "that we have to start getting along."

But government attempts are overshadowed by the fact that Ottawa is torn between conflicting goals. It knows that the banks must be strong enough to bank in the world arena, but it also wants to maintain competition at home. Almost 36 per cent of the 57,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business reported last year that they were concerned about their ability to access credit—compared with 17 per cent in 1993. "Small business are always the ones who get ruled," asserts CIBC president Catherine Swift.

Meanwhile, with the emergence of international behemoths like New York City-based Citigroup Inc. last fall, Canada's big banks fear they are slipping behind. Globally, they lack the financial clout to be significant players in many internationally syndicated loan deals that would connect them with their clients. At home, so-called single-service providers—low-overhead operations, often U.S.-based, that concentrate on one product line—are nibbling away at everything from their credit card operations to mutual fund sales.

In response, Ottawa is playing for time. It is changing bank ownership rules so that it will be easier for the Big Five to form strategic alliances with other domestic and foreign institutions, including swapping shares. The legislation, which will likely be introduced in late May, also spells out the merger process in addition to the consumer protections and prudential investigations, and the approval of the financial ministries prospective partners will be asked to present a de-

tailed "public interest impact assessment." That would outline, in excruciating detail, the costs and benefits of the merger—along with remedies for adverse effects.

The Consumer finance committee would then hold hearings on the "local public interest" issues. A senior finance department official notes that, in 1998, the banks did not list the consumer benefits of their mergers until the public inquired about them. "We are not asking them to put out proprietary data," he adds. "We are saying, 'You should put your best case forward to the public—from the beginning—as to why this should proceed.'" Dobson counters that few consumers would risk such a potential ordeal. "The process is onerous," she argues. "It is very unlikely that any organization would subject itself to it."

Thwarted, their options restricted within a mature Canadian market, the big banks are increasingly looking abroad for opportunities. But, although the group's overall savings were up 23 per cent in the first quarter of 1999-2000 and share prices have moved from the merger debacle, they remain niche players who specialize in targeted geographic and product areas. Taken together, their capital is less than that of Citigroup alone. "International transactions seem five to merge, so that makes it even more challenging for Canadians," says Janet Keating, banking analyst at Merrill Lynch Canada Inc. "But they are demonstrating their ability to get around that problem by becoming extremely niche focused."

Each bank has claimed that it wishes at least 30 per cent



"Two years ago, we were put in the penalty box. What's the time limit on a penalty? Do you want to wreck a whole industry because of what happened then?"

—Royal Bank CEO John Cleghorn

Although the earnings of the big banks are up, they remain niche players

of its income from abroad. The TD owns TD Waterhouse, an international discount brokerage unit. The CIBC is placing its "bank-to-a-bank"—automated teller machines and in-store positions—inside U.S. grocery stores. The Bank of Nova Scotia is focusing on the lucrative Caribbean and Latin American markets. The Royal has spent \$540 million on foreign acquisitions over the past two years, including the largest independent U.S. mortgage broker And, largely by exploiting its U.S. asset Hibernia Bank, the Bank of Montreal is maintaining its retail and commercial business in the undervalued Chicago area. "We have moved on with what was our plan A before the mergers came along," says CIBC's Tony Cosper. "I am not waiting around for Godot."

In any event, it remains uncertain that mergers among the big banks would be good even for the companies themselves. When very large organizations blend, the new organization can become increasingly hidebound. This month, Germany's Dresdner Bank AG sharply called off its planned merger with Deutsche Bank AG after a financial future to blend their conservative banking operations. As well, based on failed competition analyses in 1998, it is equally unclear that the original merger partners would ever be allowed to link up—even under the old rules. (McFadden has learned that the most acquirable mergers to Ottawa, based on an analysis of bank branch locations, credit card operations and securities dealers, would be the BMO with Scotiabank—which recently



BMO's Cosper: "I am not waiting around for Godot"

opposed the original deal—followed by Scotiabank with the CIBC. "It is going to drive John Cleghorn out of my mind," an insurance insider in a former merger deal, "that it will probably be Scotia and someone else that it merged."

In any event, mergers are almost certainly on the back burner for at least a year. (There is a two-year moratorium on takeovers or mergers of the five diversified life insurance companies—and Ottawa will finish the two biggest, Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. and Manulife Financial, both merging with each other.) Instead, the big banks will be granted other, perhaps equally controversial opportunities. Ownership rules, which currently prohibit any individual shareholder from holding more than 10 per cent of shares, will be changed, anyone of "fit and proper" character—including foreign institutions or individuals—will be allowed to own up to 20 per cent of the voting shares and 30 per cent of the non-voting shares in any widely held bank. In theory, any single large foreign shareholder could wield considerable influence.

But Ottawa also wants to give the big banks a run for their money. To encourage the creation of small banks with equity of less than \$1 billion, it will put no restrictions on ownership—and decrease capital requirements. It will allow insurance companies, securities dealers and money-market mutual funds to join the payments system to help them create fully functional chequing accounts. And it will support the credit union movement as it tries to create a national organization to co-ordinate purchases and products. "In another generation," says Jonathan Goss, CEO of Credit Union Central of Ontario, "you will find credit unions that want to be community banks."

Still, for all its reluctance, Ottawa will almost certainly have to permit mergers eventually among the large banks and life insurance firms. Those institutions are already paying the shareholder, scarcely demoralized life insurance firms, waiting impatiently for the two-year moratorium on acquisition to lapse. It is only a matter of time before the banks start wooing each other again. Before long, Ottawa will have to take another, better look at how best to protect consumers—and Canadian companies alike. ■



Deirdre McMurdy

Mining stocks gleam again

Regulators typically spring into action, firmly holding the reins close, once the horse has run off. That's what appears to have happened again on March 27, when the Canadian Securities Administration released their new disclosure proposals for mining companies. "We appreciate that there may be some additional costs to the industry," noted CSA chairman Douglas Hynesman. "But we believe that the proposal does strike the right balance between the needs of investors and industry."

This may be one of the few instances when that balance is restored. For the past few years, technology-related investors have shunned junior mining stocks. As a result, many undervalued juniors have abandoned the mining business, aggressively converting themselves to Internet or dot-com ventures. Among the growing list, VegeGold became the Internet incubator called Internet Silkman Gold Resources morphed into e-Gold, NorstarMall.ca, Ottawa Resources transformed itself into a business-to-business e-commerce software developer, Wilbur Resources and Rocca Resources reinvented themselves as Internet enterprises.

Just five years ago, the metals and minerals and the gold and precious metals indices represent of about 25 per cent of the value of the Toronto Stock Exchange. And Canada was internationally renowned for its fifty junior plays. Currently, the metals and gold weighting on the TSE has slipped to about 6.5 per cent of its total value, while shares of Norstar Networks carry almost 20 per cent of the TSE 300 on their own.

There are several reasons for that dramatic about-face. First, the Be-X-M trend could cut a pall over small Canadian mining companies—and their regulators. This sharp swing away from basic resources weakened confidence in the gold sector. Hedging programs and central bank interventions dissipated the price of gold. And a massive influx of European capital markets and investment firms into many of the traditionalists, who had long shied at gold shares, replaced by younger, more technology-oriented fund managers. Consequently, the investment in Canada's junior mining sector plummeted to \$532 million in 1998, from more than \$4 billion in 1996.

Until the massive buyback against start-up tech companies in the, the move from mining to technology provided a quick upshot in share price. Stock in Canada, for example, sold at about 60 cents when it traded at VegeGold. Almost overnight, it popped to \$3.50 a share, yielding a hefty market capitalization of more than \$500 million.

Part of the reason for such unproductive gains is that the stock promoters, who deftly maneuvered mining shares for years,

recently transferred their talents to junior technology markets, which now have the same speculative edge. According to senior mining analyst John Ing, president of Mason Placements, promoters can take over a mining company shell—complete with an instant listing on the Canadian Venture Exchange—for \$500,000 to \$1 million. "Buying a shell steers you out of whole profits," explains Ing. "And when it comes to purchasing a stock, it doesn't really matter if it's diamonds, gold or software."

Another reason for the rapid game was that institutions and other investors were anxious to sidestep inflated market valuations and the accompanying for initial public offerings. That made them greedy to get in on early-stage developments, which made Internet incubators and other ventures with concepts but no earnings or products increasingly attractive investments.

The insect almost left its market sentiment has, however, thrown a nasty curve in the new technology venues. And as suddenly as they gained popularity, they seem to have lost it. Many retail investors with a taste for aggressive plays have been squelched by margin calls. And major institutions and investors are now focusing instead on large-capitalization companies with established names. These are the so-called tier 1 stocks that manufacture products for the infrastructure of the New Economy, like Nortel, Cisco Systems, Lucent Technologies and JDS Uniphase.

The irony is that the prospects for junior mining are starting to improve. The tough winter have cast a reflection and consolidation in the business, a process that John Ing describes as a "healthy institutional." And although gold prices remain soft, production costs have been dramatically lowered by the increasing production, and several have also curtailed their self-destructive gold-hedging programs. On the home-merch side, commodity prices are firming up as the North American economy continues to expand, and European and Asian economies also move into a more prosperous cycle.

Furthermore, the improved disclosure requirements for the mining sector give it a renewed credibility with investors, at exactly the same time that dot-com accounting has become a source of growing concern. In the United States, regulators are already warning their attention to investors and stock new rules for cashing in the retirement of earnings and the "porking of income" in acquisitions. In fact, dot-com companies are now so volatile and speculative in junior mining companies were just a few years ago. The only difference is this, so far, even though the horse has started to kick down its stall, it still is in the barn.

Ranking the banks

Canada's banks are divided by the world's top 10, which have grown markedly through mergers. Here the assets compare (Canadian dollars)

1	Fuji Industrial Bank/ Dai-ichi Kangai	Japan	\$2.17 trillion
2	Sanyo/Kanji/ Tokai	Japan	1.55 trillion
3	Sanriyo/Sakano	Japan	1.42 trillion
4	Deutsche Bank	Germany	1.39 trillion
5	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	Japan	1.01 trillion
6	BNP Paribas	France	996 billion
7	Chiyoda	U.S.	975 billion
8	Bank of America	U.S.	904 billion
9	UBS	Switzerland	826 billion
10	HSBC Holdings	Britain	767 billion

1	Toronto Dominion Bank (including Canada Trust)	\$294 billion
2	Royal Bank of Canada	272 billion
3	CIBC	257 billion
4	Bank of Nova Scotia	232 billion
5	Bank of Montreal	228 billion

Hot times in the oilpatch

Alberta's oil and gas sector showed off its renewed vitality, as some companies posted strong quarterly results and others intensified the recent energy surge. Alberta Energy Co. Ltd. of Calgary posted strong first-quarter profits—about \$121 million, compared with \$17.8 million for the same period last year. The company said the surge was due to increased production and higher world prices for crude oil. Ulster Petroleum Ltd. of Calgary also reported a big profit hike, noting that new record gas finds and strong commodity prices helped it to a first-quarter profit of \$10 million, up from \$1.9 million a year earlier.

Ulster's target of a hostile takeover bid from Hunt Oil Co. of Dallas, is one of several Alberta companies in-



Grand Prairie, Alta., oil well profile

involved in mergers and acquisitions. Last week, three Calgary energy service providers, Phoenix Technology Services Ltd., Oceanic Energy Services Ltd. and Total Energy Services Ltd., said that they would merge. And TransAlta Corp., which owns gas power plants in Canada and Australia, said it will acquire a 50-per-cent interest in a U.S. company that manages American power plants.

Alcan's European merger plans stalled

An ambitious three-way merger between Alcan Aluminium Ltd. of Montreal, Zurich-based Alusuisse-Lorain Group Inc., known as Alupreg, and Pechiney of Paris, fell apart, leaving the Canadian company to pursue an earlier deal with the Swiss group. The three-way proposal, touted as a cost-saving measure for all three partners, died when Alcan refused to sell its 50-per-cent stake in a German aluminum plant to satisfy the European Commission's concerns about market dominance. Alcan confirmed that it will make a new offer for the Swiss group by June 30.

Financial Outlook

It's a good time to be a restaurant owner, according to Statistics Canada, out of every \$100 Canadians spent on food in 1978, \$34.62 went to meals

outside the home. Consumers spent up \$36.9 billion on eating out—a 42-per-cent increase from 1969. People in British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec spent most, relative to population, than those in other provinces.

The thick lines buying food in grocery stores to eating in restaurants, fast-food places and bars has been under way since the 1960s. Statistics Canada's explanation for the trend is not surprising: a growing Canadian economy, greater time pressures facing consumers, more single-person households—and the proliferation of restaurants.



Nelvana looks south

Canadian animation legend Nelvana Ltd. of Toronto plans to buy Klutz, a California-based children's book publisher, for \$308 million. Nelvana, which produces such television cartoons as *Rupert and Friends*, said the deal will help diversify its brands and revenues. Klutz is known for its activity books aimed at six- to 12-year-olds.

Ford parts spinoff

The world's second largest automaker, Ford Motor Co., announced it will spin off its auto-parts division, Visteon Inc., based in Dearborn, Mich., and making the \$25-billion operation independent will enhance shareholder value, partly by allowing the division to compete more aggressively for non-Ford customers.

Wise women

Frustrated by repeated efforts to get a foothold in the European market, Canadian winemakers want Oenose to take their case to the World Trade Organization. The European Union has banned all sales of Canada's unique kevin wine and reserves sales of all other Canadian wines to \$500,000 a year.

A licence to acquire

Banking behemoth Chase Manhattan Corp. will pay \$11.1 billion for Robert Fleming Holdings Ltd., one of Canada's largest independent investment banks. The deal gives Chase, the third-largest bank in the United States, a new way into the growing business of asset management in Asia and Europe. Ian Fleming, co-owner of the James Bond spy books, was part of the family that still controls the London-based company.

QLT wins U.S. approval

Vancouver-based QLT Pharmaceuticals Ltd. won the right to sell its highly sensitive eye drug, Vioquid, in the United States. In development for eight years, the medication is intended for patients suffering from age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in those over 50. Every year, about 180,000 Americans are diagnosed with the condition. Canadian approval for the drug is expected later this year.

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Let's leave it to the market

Let me see if I've got this straight: The U.S. government says it's cracking down hard on Microsoft because it wants to encourage innovation in the software business. Bill Gates' company, the mainstream charge, has operationally stifled innovation by unfairly trying to drive smaller rivals, notably Netscape Communications Corp., out of business. Right in Microsoft, the theory goes, and the result will be more innovation and, ultimately, a stronger and more vibrant economy.

Cheer—guess somebody forgot to tell the stock market. Since Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's landmark ruling against Microsoft on April 3, the tech-heavy Nasdaq market has lost more than a quarter of its value, wiping out hundreds of billions of dollars in wealth. And as investors are painfully aware, it's not just Microsoft that's getting beaten up. Shares in Sun Microsystems, Oracle, Red Hat and Compaq have also taken a tumble—not to mention America Online, which now owns Netscape. Yet those are all companies that were told ahead of time by Microsoft's lawyers that it was otherwise unreasonable for Jackson's ruling really did strike a blow for innovation, would that investors in those companies would be popping champagne corks. Instead, many of them have second on the court's decision as a reason to sell.

It's possible these investors are mistaken. Or maybe, just maybe, the market is trying to tell us something. To wit: government interference in the software business is bad not just for Microsoft, but for the entire tech sector. What's worse? No problem—just leave the market alone.

The not-for-one moment suggestion that Microsoft's behavior over the past few years has been beyond reproach, or that its products are flawless. And just think: probably a lot of truth to the things critics say about Bill Gates—that he's a narcissist, cold-hearted megamaniac whose desire is to somehow smother Microsoft's "flying windows" logo on everything from your television to your toothbrush.

But so what? None of those things is illegal. It's not even against the law for big companies to play rough with smaller companies, as demonstrated by a recent U.S. Court of Appeals ruling in a case involving chip giant Intel Corp. and Intel's graphics coprocessor, an Alameda-based maker of graphics workstations. In 1998, an Alameda district court judge awarded Intel \$100 million in damages against Intel on the grounds that the larger company had attempted to cut off supplies of chips and technical information at crucial times. That last November,

the appeals court ruled out the lower court's decision, saying that while Intel may be a tough competitor, that doesn't necessarily mean it did anything wrong. U.S. law, the court concluded, "does not convert all harsh commercial actions into antitrust violations."

In the Microsoft case, the judgment turned on two key findings: that the company wields monopoly power in the market for computer operating systems, and that it has exercised that power to the detriment of consumers. But are

these things true? Yes, Windows owns 90 per cent of the world's PCs, but the reason is that in the early days of desktop computing, no other company (except Apple Computer) worked as hard to bring computing to the masses. IBM was pushing OS/2 and several other companies offered variants of Unix, but all were targeting the more sophisticated (hence smaller) business market. As for Apple, its Macintosh operating system was, and arguably remains, superior to Windows in most respects. But it wasn't Microsoft that thwarted the Mac's adoption as the world's computing standard. It was Apple itself, by refusing to license Macintosh to other computer makers. Sounds like dumb in hindsight, but Apple was a victim of greed: it was reaping fat profits from hardware sales and didn't want to share that bounty with anyone else.

OK, so what about the harm Microsoft supposedly inflicted on consumers? In his ruling, Jackson said the company has gouged customers by charging more for Windows than a should. Yet at the same time the court found that Microsoft unfairly targeted Netscape by killing its Internet browser software and Windows instead of charging for it separately. Leaving aside the fact that Netscape had for some time been giving its own browser away for free, the bottom line is that, for most people, Microsoft's pricing strategy was a wash. Perhaps Jackson thinks Web users should be required to pay more for their browsers. Good luck selling that to consumers.

Which brings us back to innovation. While Microsoft has been riding its profits from Windows, the computer business has been slipping from its grasp. No matter how much Gates tries, he can't control the Web—it's too big, too decentralized and it's based on open standards that are gradually making a consumer's choice of operating system irrelevant. The government didn't order this to happen, and no court can change it. It's innovation, pure and simple, and no court can change when the market is left to sort things out for itself.



Gates: a megamaniac?

Tech Explorer



Trying the new look in their no helmet

Part scooter, part car

It resembles a flying scooter from Star Wars with styling cues culled from an episode of *The Jesus Christ*, colorful and now available in Europe, BMW's CI scooter is nothing more than a few beamed beams. The two-wheeled design features a combined double roll bar and roof, designed for road safety and protection from the elements. The driver is secured to the scooter by a five-point harness sling over the torso and across the lap. BMW claims the CI is as safe as a small car in a head-on collision. In fact, the scooter's Munich-based car manufacturer has convinced Germany and other European nations, including France, Italy and Belgium, to allow CI drivers to road about town with the wind in their hair, keeping crash-helmet laws because of the scooter's exceptional safety.

Norman Bick, national motorcycle manager at BMW Canada, says that while there are no immediate plans to bring the CI to North America, a final decision will depend in part on European sales. Designed for the tight streets of European cities, it is powered by a single cylinder, 125-c.c., 15-hp engine capable of a 100-km/h top speed and gets about 34 km to the litre. The wheelbase is

equipped with a wiper and options include anti-lock braking, handgrip handbrake and seat, a navigation system and a cellphone holder. Built in Italy, the CI base model weighs in at 170 kg and costs for \$10,000.

Typing while wet

Prone to spilling coffee into your computer keyboard? If so, then Man & Machine Inc. (www.manandmachine.com) suggests the Flexboard, a full-size, waterproof keypad for PCs that can be rolled up when the work is done. The Flexboard, which retails for \$145, is targeted for use as hospitals, university labs, garages or wherever there are children. A heavy-duty industrial model, which sells for \$250, withstands harsh chemicals. "You could even use it underwater," says company president Ken Connors. "If you had some strange doctor to do so."

Video in a disc

The DCM-M1 digital camcorder is Sony's first to allow viewers to edit video on the device itself rather than by transferring to a PC. The \$3,499 DCM-M1 records up to 20 minutes of video with sound, 45 hours of sound only or 5,500 still pictures onto a 500-megabyte Mini-Disc. Using a disc instead of videotape means editing more efficient, since users to images in instant. Sequences are electronically clipped and spliced using the DCM-M1's non-linear editing touch screen and ribbon. Tapes can be added and there are 11 slide modes.

Cool Sites

Information fast

Geared to reporters, www.journalism.com is nonetheless useful for anyone needing information in a hurry. There are links to libraries, dictionaries, encyclopedias, biographies and newspapers and magazines from around the world, as well as tips on finding people.

Danilo Horvath

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Genetic mysteries

A breakthrough in the decoding race is challenged

When will the down beat on the heralded new age of powerful genetically based medical treatment? That answer remains far from clear amid a public disagreement between rivals in the race to find the means for that radical revolution in health care. A U.S. company, Celera Genomics of Rockville, Md., now in short price snafu in early April when it promised itself the first to complete the "gene sequencing plan" of a human being. That, experts explained, was the equivalent of finding all the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle within a three-billion-unit code representing the human genome, or genetics. The company

was giving itself six to eight weeks, and Celera president J. Craig Venter, to put them in their proper order. With that, Celera appeared to have passed a basic hurdle in the quest to use genetic information to design a new family of drugs to target the causes of diseases.

But last week, a publicly funded global consortium in the same race to map the genetic code rejoined Celera's claim. "There were a couple of unfortunate quotes that implied that they had sequenced the whole human genome," said Dr. Francis Collins, who heads the U.S. component of the Human Genome Organization, "but



Ogden, as the world awaits gene-based cures, a pioneer trademarks his DNA

that's just not true." In Venter's view for a genome conference, Collins insisted that in the sequencing project, "there is not going to be a finish line for any group for at least the next couple of years." The dispute may hinge on different ideas of what constitutes a first draft, rather than a final version of the human genetic blueprint. Celera issued no follow-up statement as its share price dropped back to its level at

the beginning of April.

While about 1,000 scientists shared information about genetic discoveries, Venter's futuristic Frank Ogden joined the continuing debate over the possibility of creating genetic information. As companies move to patent some genes, Ogden announced he has formally filed an application to

have his own DNA trademarked as an office, he said, to protect himself and his identity. Ogden said he was responding to scientists from many countries who are using research information from thousands of people for their own gain without compensating their subjects. Scientists at the conference also called on governments to enact laws protecting people from discrimination by employers or insurance companies if they are found to carry genes that make them susceptible to diseases such as cancer.

Ginseng helps adult diabetics

Taking the American variety of ginseng may help reduce blood-sugar levels in people with adult-onset diabetes, a research team from Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital reports in *Archives of Internal Medicine*, a publication of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The researchers gave ginseng capsules to patients with type 2 diabetes, the most common form, occurring mainly in overweight adults over 40 and usually treated with pills.

Consuming antioxidants, such as fruits and vegetables, and a lower incidence of certain chronic diseases, said Norman Krinsky, chairman of the antioxidant panel of the Washington-based Institute of Medicine. But antioxidants could be causing the trouble. Antioxidants deplete the body of damaging oxygen molecules known as free radicals, which are suspected of triggering diseases.

A drug's green light in Europe

A European court rejected an attempt by Dr. Nancy Olivieri of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children to halt use in Europe of a drug for patients with sickle-cell anemia, a potentially fatal blood disorder. Olivieri, who says deferoxamine can cause liver damage, warned sales halted pending the outcome of more testing. The manufacturer, Toronto-based Apotex Inc., said studies have shown the drug to be safe.

Unease over big vitamin doses

U.S. researchers say they can find no proof that taking massive doses of antioxidant supplements such as vitamin C and E improves health—and it might even be harmful. Studies do reveal a link between a diet rich in foods

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Gardening Goes Native

Canadians are spurning exotic plants in favour of hardier indigenous species that thrive without heavy doses of water and chemicals

By Barbara Wickham

For some gardeners, inviting wildlife onto their patch of paradise is essential. "Why do all that work just to provide a banquet for squirrels and deer and bugs? Abbotford, B.C., gardener Sylvia Pincoff, however, is overjoyed by the thousands of bees, ants and eight-legged visitors to her yard—the actively encouraged ones. On the back part of her 1.6-acre property 80 km east of Vancouver, Pincoff has left an original woodlot in place, while in beds close to the house she includes plants native to the Fraser Valley. And when the plants colonized species, they, too, are chosen for their role in the ecosystem—a red elderberry bush, she notes, attracts very pollinating insects this, in turn,

become dinner for flying honey-eating birds. But the overall effect

is far from wild and unkempt: instead, Pincoff's garden is the sort of eye-catcher that attracts gardening fans of the two-legged variety, friendly by the bushload. "We've had hundreds of visitors," she says. "It's a show garden."

Pincoff's love of gardening put her in good company. The gardening industry's most recent growth spurt began in the early 1990s, and has since blossomed into a nearly \$4-billion-a-year business—\$12 billion when the sale of such related goods as cut flowers, house plants and lawn-care are included. For Sheryl Lyn Ingram, director of the renowned Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, Ont., one word sums up gardening's current pop-



ularity "demographics." Baby boomers, the adults, are at the age and stage when gardening is appealing. But boomers have put their own stamp on their landscapes. Not content to mimic the gardening styles of their parents, they are attracted by less contrived and more natural approaches to garden-building. "In the '60s, if someone bought a house in a new subdivision, they went to the garden centre, bought a couple of upright junipers, a couple

A backyard meadow bristled black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers grew tall despite poor soil conditions in an urban setting

Ours may not be the writer's single most coveted spotlight, but we're okay with that.



Congratulations to Peter Oliver, for *The City of Yes*, winner of this year's Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Our congratulations also go out to the nominees: Caroline Adderson for *A History of Forgetting*, Elyse Gasco for *Can You Wave Bye Bye Baby?*, Judy MacDonald for *Jane*, and Alister MacLeod for *No Great Miracle*.

Plants that evolve over thousands of years are ideally adapted to local conditions

of globe oaks, a couple of spreading pines, brought them in the foundation planting and then supplemented it for years with perennials and grasses," says Chris Graham, the RBC's director of horticulture. "Now there is quite a level of sophistication in Canadian gardens."

That, in part, has translated into a boom in perennials, and not just familiar favourites such as peonies and roses. "As people get more into gardening, they become interested in new plant material," says Ingram. These days, gardeners are likely to spend everything from shade-loving ferns—which account for 15 per cent of the perennial



Pictured in her Abbotsford garden, Margaret is surrounded by ferns, flowers and no-legged visitors.

market—no two-metre high grasses.

That sophistication has clearly set down roots. Supermarket chain Loblaw Cos. Ltd. got into the gardening business 20 years ago, but decided to refocus its efforts six years ago. As well as offer-

ing a greater variety of exotic plants, the company hired local horticultural experts to help educate customers. That focus has paid off by creating a more discerning consumer, says Janet Rosenburg, a Toronto landscape architect and consultant to Loblaw. "We used to offer 'six-packs' of plants that grow well together," she says. "We don't need to argue—people feel confident they know what to do." The effort also paid off on the bottom line: last year, the 596 seasonal garden centres that Loblaw operated under its own and affiliated banners across Canada did more than \$106 million worth of business.

That said, there is no such thing as a typical Canadian garden in the way that there is a typical English cottage garden—comparing an image of a bloomy profusion of perennials—or a Japanese garden, a serene setting where plants are secondary to the aesthetic. If anything, Canada's vast geographic and climatic differences all but preclude the emergence of a single Canadian style.

Still, experts say there is at least one thing that gardeners from British Columbia to Newfoundland have in common: respect for the environment. That concern shows up in a variety of ways. It can be as simple as replacing modest hybrid rose roses with hardy shrub roses that require less pesticide to survive. Other gardeners may do their bit by conserving water. One of the most popular of the more than 80 seminars at Canada Blooms, a Toronto-based



Are you ready for the next phase of your life? This can mean no limits to take care of. Perhaps it is time to buy that boat you have always wanted or to just play golf and tennis every day. Whatever you desire you can have. And it is all part of the package if you buy a home in one of the growing number of adult lifestyle communities in Toronto and southern Ontario.

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about a little golf, tennis or boating... you can literally pick and choose. ■

We are going to take you on a tour of some of southern Ontario's prettiest destinations in Niagara, the Bay of Quinte, the Nottawasaga Valley and Ballantrae.



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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS

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THE ARBORETH, 1,380 SQ. FT., FROM \$188,888
This country inspired home at St. Andrews Terrace has the garage in the back to offer an extension that takes full advantage of the 25th frontage. It offers a new bathroom design with 1 1/2 baths. An optional feature is a second floor with two additional bedrooms.

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If you are thinking of moving away from the hustle and bustle of the city, you can find a leisure-rich lifestyle where the cost of living is not as high as in Toronto.

ST. ANDREWS TERRACE

The Dealer Group of Welland has built a community in the Heart of Niagara called St. Andrews Terrace (formerly Devonshire Court). The community officially opened in July 1999 and offers exceptional home designs, an on-site championship golf course and unrivaled amenities.

Homes are affordable, with prices ranging from \$169,900. There are 10 luxurious, maintenance-free home models to choose from, constructed on large freehold lots. Homes are beautifully designed and spaciously elegant, built with excellent craftsmanship in mind. Each comes equipped with its own security system and complimentary Bell ExpressVu satellite package.

When you call St. Andrews Terrace home, you are living in the 'Heart of Niagara', one of Canada's most scenic locales. It offers big city services and small-town sensibilities. Shopping, entertainment and hospitals are located nearby, with easy access to major highways and the U.S. border. With spectacular Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and other major attractions in the immediate area, there are endless opportunities for leisure activities and recreation. Residents can take a tour through a local winery, try their luck at Casino Niagara or take a short trip across the border. The possibilities are endless.

At St. Andrews Terrace, golf is not just a game, it is a state of mind. The on-site 18 hole golf course is beautifully designed and challenging. The completion of this outstanding community is the Highland Community Centre, set to be home to a wide array of activities including two swimming pools, a fitness centre, craft workshops and a billiards parlor.

Discover the St. Andrews Terrace difference - this is where you'll want to live!

WELLINGTON ON THE LAKE

If the beauty of eastern Ontario captivates your mind, body and soul, the Dealer Group has the place for you. Wellington on the Lake (formerly Wellington), located on the picturesque (by of) Queen's region (1 1/2 hours east of Toronto), offers the perfect balance between nature's tranquility and big city living. This unique community only has it all: fine home designs, beautiful surroundings and wonderful on-site services, including a complete recreation centre.

The Dealer Group's reputation for quality craftsmanship, attention to detail and innovative designs can be seen in the new beautiful model homes available at Wellington on the Lake. Homes are functional, elegant and maintenance-free. Land lease and freehold options are available - it's your choice. For your lifestyle. Prices start at \$188,888.

The Orchard Grove Recreation Centre is the hub of community activity. Activities include tennis, lawn bowling, shuffleboard, exercise programs and basketball. A swimming pool, library and day care's office are also located on site.



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Wellington on the lake takes great pride in providing all the features and amenities that active adults desire.

There is big news this year at Wellington on the lake. In a few short months residents will be enjoying their own on-lake golf course. It will be just a few short steps from their driveway to the greenery. The new 117-acre nine-hole course will offer players a challenging layout, right in their own backyard!

Prince Edward County is renowned for its fresh water fishing, boating, bird watching and camping. If you are looking for a small town atmosphere, discover Wellington on the lake. Superb shopping is close by at Port Hope, Belleville and Trenton. The region offers many cultural events that enhance the community throughout the year, including the Festival of Lights, bird feeding workshops and the annual Prince Edward County Pumpkinfest.

Wellington on the lake is truly more than just a place to live—it is a way of life!

BE ON PERMANENT VACATION AT BRIAR HILL

You can enjoy a resort lifestyle at the Briar Hill community (www.briarhill.ca) in Alliston as the Northwest Valley. Living here is like being on a permanent vacation; you can enjoy the spa, saunas, steam, hot restaurants, golfing, squash, tennis and an aquatic centre. Briar Hill is adjacent to the Northwest Resort (www.northwestresort.com), a world-class convention centre and golf resort. The area offers some great amenities like skiing (Caffreywood), a great beach (Wasaga Beach) and nightlife (Casino Rama) all within a short drive away.

Your kids will certainly stay here more often, because at the Northwest Inn Resort there are 45 challenging holes of golf and a 6,500 sq ft sports and leisure centre with a 25-m pool and 30 water slides. There is a jungle gym, an indoor 18-hole mini-golf course complete with waterfalls, jungle runs, jungle obstacles and sound effects.



PENTHOUSE SUITE AT BRIAR HILL, 2, 505 SQ FT \$419,900

The penthouse suite at Briar Hill will offer some views of the Northwest Valley through the floor to ceiling windows. This spacious two-bedroom design offers an entrance, two bedrooms, ample storage, laundry room, 2½ baths and his and her studies. Briar Hill is located less than 45 minutes north of Toronto on Hwy 401, just 15 km west of Hwy 404.

You can choose from eight home designs that range from 1,430 to 2,021 sq ft starting from \$189,900. The designs are 1) spacious two-bedrooms plus den layouts with a loft that feature extra large kitchens, well appointed bedrooms, with one bedroom that has a soaring two-story window. If you prefer an apartment lifestyle these are the two-bedroom luxury suite designs to choose from starting at \$130,900.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

YORKVILLE

If you are not ready to slow down and you want to stay in the city, Yorkville is undergoing a renaissance. According to RE/MAX, Yorkville represented close to 15 per cent of all sales over \$1 million in the Greater Toronto Area in 1999. Now upscale developments near the Avenue Road from Bloor Street to Denison Road. Tony Daniels from Minto Developments Inc., builders of the Prince Arthur on Avenue Road, notes: "There is a new type of empty center in the market, successful business people who are not ready to slow down and retire even though they are at retirement age." Minto plans to build another luxury

condominium on the old Lowcock site in the new future, as their Prince Arthur project is close to being sold out (four homes remain, starting from \$1.5 million).

Tridel is building on the old Furman. Players movie theatre site with a project aptly called 16 Baller. Other projects available in Yorkville are 8 Park Road by H&M Development, 99 Avenue Road by Fox & Co. and the Moxie by The Sile Fox Group all completed. To see other projects in the downtown core, visit The Toronto Star's new Internet Web site: www.renewal.ca, which has a complete directory of all major sites.



Orion, located in Yorkville, has built by The Diamond Group. The architectural marvel is a delicate impression of Gothic architecture with its complex in allowing maximum sunlight into the house. Photo: Rebecca Arnold. © 2000. All rights reserved.



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BALLANTRAE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

One of Canada's newest - and finest - adult lifestyle communities is being set north of Toronto at the Ballantrae Golf & Country Club. Theoretically 596 single family bungalows will be strategically interspersed throughout the championship 19-hole golf course. Home buyers can choose from eight detached bungalows in designs, ranging in size from 1,450 to 2,300 sq ft, and starting at \$249,990. The condominium community, located on the old golf course, will offer maintenance-free living at its finest. Flexible, suggested floor plans with all back entrance and vaulted ceilings are standard features as are the luxurious staircases, gourmet kitchens and covered porches. The model homes are expected to be ready this June, when the site opens for sale to the public.



The attention to detail and superb surroundings of the Ballantrae community are to be expected from a project owned, built and developed by the well-respected Schickelstein Bros. Ltd. Their residential and, later, commercial construction business has steadily grown over the past half century and expanded from Toronto into major projects in Calgary and Florida. The community's extremely landscaped common areas and hiking and cross-country skiing trails at



The Ballantrae Golf & Country Club course was designed by Doug Carrick, internationally renowned golf course architect. Carrick has previously been involved in the creation of Angus Glen, King Valley, Ponderosa and Quarry Valley. The Ballantrae course is designed to play from 5,122 to 6,322 yards. The club house will offer a fully licensed restaurant.

Ballantrae, have earned it recognition from the Audubon Society. And its proposed recreational facilities will be appreciated by active adults. Country Hall will provide tennis courts, swimming pool and complete exercise and tanning equipment for all levels of physical activity.

Ballantrae Golf & Country Club offers the ultimate in residential living and recreation-based lifestyle.



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Gravenhurst, Bracebridge

Starting prices for standard lot (100 ft) waterfront

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Starting prices for standard lot (100 ft)

Waterfront (Lake Simcoe) \$210,000

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Lincoln, Pelee Island, Bellefleur

Starting prices for standard lot (75 ft) waterfront

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PETERBOROUGH

Lakefield, Bridgmanville

Starting prices for standard lot (100 ft)

Waterfront (Stony Lake) \$200,000

Waterfront (Smaller Lake: Charming, Buckhorn, Pigou) \$150,000

HAURINGTON

Midland

Starting prices for standard lot (100 ft) waterfront

\$40,000

BRISTOLTON

St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario, Devil Lake, Dog Lake, Rock Lake

Starting prices for 30 ft lot

Waterfront (St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario) \$120,000

Waterfront (Smaller Lake) \$80,000

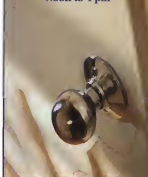
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flowers and garden show that averaged 115,000 visitors in five days last year, was an anniversary—golfing with plants that flourish in and regions. As well, organic farming and gardening have been around as long as there has been, well, nature. And for a growing number of Canadians, including those, caring about the environment leads to planting a garden with a variety of native species.

Natives are defined as those plants that were already growing when the Europeans arrived in the 16th century to begin settling the future Canada. While some natives, like black-eyed Susans, have recently become popular, they tend to be less showy than many imports and cultivated hybrids. But native plants advocate say there are countless pluses of natives for including them in the garden. Because the plants evolved over thousands of years, they are ideally adapted to local conditions. That means they thrive without herbicides and pesticides—resulting in fewer chemicals leaching into the environment. Once established, they can get all the water they need from rainfall. And as native lovers like Pinnet have found, native plants just naturally attract the local wildlife.

As recently as 1997, some municipalities hired homeowners who tore up their lawns and replaced them with meadows or woodland gardens. But now cities themselves are getting in on the act. Angela Diering, co-director of Victoria-based Naturescape British Columbia, a five-year-old provincial agency promoting natural habitats, says that several B.C. municipalities, including Port Moody and Saanich, are planting natives in their public spaces. Even in Canada's largest city, Toronto, the urge to go native is taking hold. Arthur Bessergren, the park division's manager of natural environment and horticulture, says that over the past decade the city has allowed its many ravines and hydro corridors to flourish. As well, he knows of 51 different environmental groups promoting the restoration of natural habitats in Toronto's public and private spaces. With apologies to songwriter Joni Mitchell, once all over the country are enjoying putting, less and putting up gardens. ■

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Theatre

Animal Magnetism

By John Beaudreau

It's only the first scene of the musical, but as the graffiti rock with slow majesty across the stage, into the flooding light of an African dawn, it's clear something extraordinary is happening. Other animals are moving down the sides of the theatre—an elephant, a cheetah, gazelles, hyenas—while coloured birds fill the air overhead, seemingly buoyed by the thrilling cries of African singers. Of course, these aren't really animals. The graffiti are portrayed by actors on stilts. The cheetah is a large puppet controlled by a woman whose legs double as the beast's hind ones. Yet the very inoperability of the illusion is what makes it all so moving. The scene seems to touch some universal nerve, stirring

memories of our ancient ancestors with the animal kingdom. *The Lion King* has arrived. After triumphant openings in four other cities, the hit musical recently touched down at Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre. It is now in preview and opens on April 25 for a scheduled 22-month run. The Disney spectacular, first mounted for \$15 million (U.S.) at Broadway's New Amsterdam Theatre in November 1997, is based on the wildly successful 1994 animated film, and features music by Elton John, among others. Since then opening, *The Lion King* has been playing to standing-room-only houses, and a scalper's ticket can cost a tidy \$5,000. The verities of the show now filling theatres in Tokyo, Osaka and London are like the Toronto incarnation, identical to the one in New York. The Toronto producers, Ted and David Mirvish,

"Circle of Life" scene with Pumba Mufasa "Lioness Hunt" scene (right), a prince who can not to survive the death of his father's throne



After thrilling audiences in three other countries, *The Lion King* is about to enrapture Canada

beat out Chicago and Los Angeles to get the rights. Under the watchful eye of Disney's creative team, led by New York disc jockey Julie Taymor, *The Lion King* is being performed largely by Canadians.

It took 11 months and a coast-to-coast search—more than 6,000 hours of auditions all told—to find them all. No doubt, the process inspired many an artistic crooner to dream of overnight success. But in the end, virtually all of the 40 Canadians who were chosen for the 88-member cast (the rest are South Africans and Americans) had at least some professional acting, singing or dancing experience. Still, being in *The Lion King* is a huge jump for someone like Steven Alterick. The Toronto television actor is playing the coveted role of Simba, the lion prince who ascends to the bloody throne of his father's throne by his wailing uncle, Scar.

Alterick, 24, is definitely leading-actor material. He recalls a Caribbean Keweenaw. However, his hair receded up into points like black meringue. Until *The Lion King*, Alterick had had only small roles in TV dramas such as *Inner Beauty* and *Lawson*. And he had never acted onstage professionally. "I never wanted to do musical theatre," he says, "and when I heard about the auditions I thought there was no way I would get the part." In fact, Alterick didn't even bother trying out until he was called by *The Lion King*'s casting director, Stephanie Corbin, who

remembered him from an earlier, unsuccessful attempt to get into the hit musical *Boyz n the City*. Alterick, who shows he has "an OK voice," went through four grueling auditions, the last of them in New York, before he was offered the role. "I was walking on Cloud 9," recalls the actor, who lives at home with his parents. "But my mother, Alice, was even more excited. She changed the message on our answering machine to play a few bars of [the musical's big hit] *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?*"

Alterick has already become a star because of *The Lion King*—fans have been turning up at the stage door. But for Toronto's Sadek Girdi, who plays his love interest, Nala, celebrity is nothing new. Girdi, 30, is known mainly as a rhythm and blues singer, half of the popular recording duo Love and Sex. "I thought I was probably too light for the part," he says, teaching the dance on her features in reference to the curving arcs of the show, which discuss the most of us performers be of African descent. She wasn't too light, and in fact marries Alterick unceremoniously. "We could be brother and sister," she says with a laugh, adding, "we both grew up in [the Toronto neighbourhood of] Scarborough, we're both of mixed Jamaican and Chinese background—it's really kind of fusion." A veteran of last year's Toronto production of *Boyz*, Girdi knows better than most that life inside a mega-musical is not



It took 6,000 hours of auditions to recruit the mostly Canadian cast

all glamorous. "I love the family feeling that develops between cast members, but on the other hand, you hardly ever get to see your real family and friends. When they're free, you're performing or sleeping, or going to the gym. It's very isolating."

In joining *The Lion King*, Allenck and Girel have become part of Disney's strategy to capitalize on the success of its animated film by giving them a second life on the stage. The company has gone that route before with *Beauty and the Beast*. But while that stage version is a virtual clone of the film, Disney took a radical step with *The Lion King* in hiring

Thyrror. Like Canada's Robert Leggett, she believes in pushing live drama away from naturalism towards something more imaginative and natural. "The freedom of theatre is mind-boggling if you stay away from the literal," she says. "There's a need to revitalize its poetic nature." Thyrror, who recently directed the film *Zina*, has kept most of the original characters and story line of the animated film. But to the original score by John and Tyrror Tim Rice she has added new songs by first season, as well as music from the animated feature's follow-up. And she has deepened the tale's psychological complexity



Alleck McMillan (right) narrates of scenes with the animal kingdom

Thyrror was also determined that her performers would be seen, not hidden away inside animal costumes. "Audiences refuse to sit and watch behind theatre," she argues. "When we see a person actually manipulating an inanimate object like a puppet and making it come alive, the quality moves us. Hidden special effects lack humanity, but when the human spirit visibly animates an object, we experience a special, almost life-giving connection." In the end, Thyrror has created one of the most original, complex spectacles ever seen on the musical stage. It involves the use of more than 100 puppets of various sizes and styles—even shadow puppets—plus a large assortment of masks and props.

Learning to play a dual animal-human role has been a challenge for the performers. The highly respected Toronto-based actor Richard McMillan plays Scar with a mask that sometimes rides imperiously above his head, but which slides down over his face whenever he becomes more lion-like. To help prepare for the role, McMillan, 49, went to the zoo to observe the big cats. "They taught me attitude," he says, "attitude through strength. They have a power that's simply there; they don't have to show it. It's just there in all its beautiful majesty

and majesty." Yet the real challenge for McMillan may not be so much controlling his role as surviving it. McMillan's costume weighs more than 16 kg, much of it concentrated in the belt of harness that power his limbs and mask. McMillan says he is suffering from lower back trouble for the first time in his life—no doubt aggravated by having to endure a two-controlled fit of 4.5 m to the stage, where he lands squarely on his back.

Difficulties of another kind have plagued Jonathan Wilson, a native of Ottawa, Ont., who plays Timon, a wisecracking meerkat (a kind of cross between a groundhog and a cat). The comic heart of the show, Timon is a chin-high puppet. "He's a meerkat, but he's also Jewish and from New York," roars Wilson, 35, who has performed stand-up comedy with the Second City troupe, as well as his own one-man play, *My Own Private Odessa*. But it's been hard learning to channel his exuberant instincts through Timon, says Wilson, who wears a green costume, green makeup and a green wig to blend into the background. "If I'm successful, people won't notice me, even if I do look like a big piece of broccoli." Being attached to another body who gets all the laughs is tough, he says, though he was worried of such difficulties by the actor who played Timon in the New York show. "He told me, 'You're gonna want to quit, you're gonna cry, you're gonna hate and curse this puppet. You're gonna bond with this puppet. You're gonna think you know it. And you're gonna crash and burn and hate it again.' And he was absolutely right," Wilson says. "It's been a real roller-coaster ride. Some nights after an exhausting show, I curl back like the feline of freedom when I walk out of here without him."

Of course, the audience is usually unaware of such agonies. By the time it opens officially, the Toronto *Lion King* will no doubt be running as smoothly as the very similar versions in London or Tokyo. Critics may complain that such cloned shows represent the McDonaldization of theatre. But to the performers singing their hearts out, not to mention the audience who invariably roar their approval, such considerations are about as meaningful as a few flat beers to a pride of lions. ■

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The Rowling interview rules

The year's most anticipated novel may not be Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* or Joyce Carol Oates' *Abandon*, but the newest Harry Potter adventure. And if Harry, hero of the phenomenally popular kids' series, is king of the literary world, his creator, J. K. Rowling, is queen. After her novel is released worldwide on July 8, the fiercely private Rowling plans to discharge all her media obligations in the following three days. The British author will bowl the "Hogwarts Express"—a decorated Harry Potter theme train that will depart from London's King's Cross Station—to talk to the national media and to one prize journalist from each of the other major English-language book markets: Canada, the United States and Australia. (Photographers will not be admitted.) Canadian publications may find the price—Rowling's first exclusive interview with a Canadian—steep enough to pay the admission price: promises of front-page treatment, advance promotion and TV advertising.



Rowling: no photographers please

Pop Movies

1. <i>Adam & Eve</i> (R) (14)	\$1,021,532
2. <i>Big Brother</i> (G) (14)	\$1,439,000
3. <i>The Matrix</i> (17) (15)	\$1,100,140
4. <i>From Justin to Kelly</i> (14)	\$794,440
5. <i>The Hot Chick</i> (R) (15)	\$690,110
6. <i>Deadly Beauty</i> (13) (14)	\$617,720
7. <i>American Beauty</i> (13) (15)	\$584,340
8. <i>High Heels</i> (R) (15)	\$549,230
9. <i>From Justin to Kelly</i> (14)	\$500,290
10. <i>Deadly Beauty</i> (13) (14)	\$500,230

Top movie in Canada, ranked according to box office grosses during the seven days that ended on April 15. (The box office numbers are from Exhibitor Relations Co.)

Source: Entertainment Weekly Inc.

Party pooper

In *28 Days*, Sandra Bullock portrays Gwen, a writer and notorious party girl. But when she drives a keno into a house after getting drunk at her sister's wedding, Gwen owns a court-ordered stay at a rehab facility. There, she is forced to take a close look at who she really is.



Bullock: keno

Best-Sellers

Fiction	NON-FICTION
1. <i>ALL ABOUT</i> (P) (14)	1. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)
2. <i>NOBODY KNOWS</i> (P) (14)	2. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)
3. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)	3. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)
4. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)	4. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)
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10. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)	10. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)

Nonfiction

1. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)	1. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)
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10. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)	10. <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> (14)

() Weeks on the
Compiled by Susan Schaefer

Bone of contention

In 1996, two teenagers trying to sneak into a hydroplane race stumbled across a 9,000-year-old human skeleton in the shelves of the Columbus River near Keweenaw. With Seattle journalist Roger Downey's *Rebel of the Bone* (Capricorn) details the fascinating scientific-political-moral dispute, still making its way through U.S. courts, that followed. Native Americans claim Keweenaw Man



one of their own and want his bones handed over for immediate ancestral Ancestralists, especially those who believe the skull shows Caucasian features, cover the skeleton as a vital clue to the continent's prehistory. As for the ancient man himself, his remains are unusually eloquent: He was about 50 when he died, a good age considering his hard life; at some point he had a severe fall from a scuttling blow to his ribs; while the right side of his pelvis bore a deeply embedded spear tip.

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What Matters in Canadians

Water all dried up

While editors in India have poured cold water on the filming of Deepa Mehta's latest movie, *Water*, Mehta, an Indian-born, Toronto-based filmmaker, has stepped production in the holy city of Varanasi after conservative Hindu organizations denounced the movie, about the lowly status of Indian widows, as immoral. In January a crowd of 500 gathered and burned the film site. "It's surprising that a culture as well noted as Hinduism is so threatened by a film," Mehta, a Hindu, told Maclean's.



Mehta (left) in *Water* protests are justified

The plot of *Water* concerns young widows in the 1930s who were forced to become prostitutes. To some the subject is an attack on traditional religious values. But Mehta, 48, believes the protest, "is all political. The fundamentalists would like nothing better than for this film to disappear. But it won't, because now it's about the freedom of expression."



ple with six bedrooms, underground parking, tennis court and an indoor pool with a glass roof. But to ensure themselves some privacy, they also purchased the vacant lot next door for \$40,800. Cheap change for Celine.

The price of privacy

Quelbecois sanghaid Celine Dion has bought a house fit for the diva she is: a \$7.8-million turned cinder on a small island adjacent to the Montreal suburb of Laval. No word yet on when Dion and her husband-manager René Angélil will move into their neo-Gothic digs, complete with six bedrooms, underground parking, tennis court and an indoor pool with a glass roof. But to ensure themselves some privacy, they also purchased the vacant lot next door for \$40,800. Cheap change for Celine.

Art

While 17th-century Dutch painter Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn the signed his work with only his last name) is primarily known for his oil portraits, in his own day he was more famous for his etchings (created by burning designs on copper plates with acid). In fact, Rembrandt is regarded as the greatest etcher of all time, credited with all



Self-portrait etched

but over the art in honour of the artist's 30-year career as an etcher, 62 of his prints are on display at Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario. Rembrandt's Masterpieces in Etching will be on view from April 20 to June 25. The works are part of a larger collection housed at New York City's Pierpont Morgan Library. Magnifying glasses are provided at the exhibit to reveal all the details.



Allan Fotheringham

It's a dog's breakfast

The problem with Canada is the endless geography. The country in reality is actually only about the size of Chile—a ridiculous narrow strip stretching more than 6,000 kms, with some 83 per cent of the population within 300 kms of the American border.

Too few people, too far apart. Being nearly 100 years younger than the United States, Canada, in its infancy, has never come to grips with the reality. Never developed the political maturity to deal with this uncomfortable, recognizable reality. In the United States, no one in any state North Dakota excepts the fact that population-rich and therefore vote-rich California, New York and Texas will eventually decide who is going to be president. And who will control Congress, the Democrats or the Republicans? It's an accepted reality. Besides, the air is better in North Dakota.

In Canada? It's all different. Those from the boardlands and the hinterland corner aside the fact that Lord Oromeo—run by Hoggren—controls the country's political levers. With one-third of the 30-million population, it automatically owns 333 of the 500 seats in the House of Commons, 108 of those at present owned by The Beaver Bay Alliance, Jean Charest.

Toronto and the Golden Horse-shoe, stretching around the shores of Lake Ontario to Hamilton and Niagara Falls, now have a combined population of 5.6 million. North American largest metropolitan areas are Los Angeles at 16.2 million, and New York City at 20.4 million.

Which brings us around, naturally, to the dog's breakfast known as the Canadian Alliance. Or, in Ontario Camp calls it, the Social Credit Reform United Alternative Canadian Conservative Alliance party (SCRAP).

Buy Street, The Centre of the Universe, could not abide that those cowboys from the hinterland might have the privilege of becoming the next prime minister, particularly as the governor was in fact doing his way through the Middle East only taking his foot from his mouth to change first.

The Fight for the Right is being conducted at Alberta of all places, Thron, Munger and the new Rocky Mount of politics, Scottwell Day—mid poor old Janus Clark.

This would not do. Street Ontario owns these 103 seats—thus keeping the Little Guy in power since he can't get money into his native Quebec—Buy Street would have to show

in muscle. There's no one being a bully unless you can bully.

As a rallying horse, the New Big Blue Machine or Queen's Park fire proffered Frank Who, a junior minister in the Tory government who would be recognized even if he fell into his soup at the Tuxedo Club. He expired quickly, announcing—shocking!—that he in effect had been offered a broke no-dog-out after the SCRAP fire ball in favour of the ABP (Anytime But Not) candidate.

The evidence that he apparently had missed politics thinking it was about purchasing Girl Guide cookies to appeal the Tory money men that they have now brought in their own Jack Demagney, a pit bull. None of Tom Long, a small man with the usual Napoleonic complex, someone who has never run for anything in his life, preferring instead to hole behind the curtain while becoming the Backroom Buy behind Mickey Harris two victories in Queen's Park.

The euphoria on Buy Street and among the other piano-leaves in the Tory camp is almost pornographic. All thoughts of having just a smiling horse in the race discarded, they now have delusions of grandeur that their own man—the back behind golf instructor Harris—might actually win the whole thing.

With computer listings of some 150,000 Conservative members in Ontario, with the backing of the New Big Blue Machine, they feel they can wipe out those insular Alliance voters from Red Deer and Kamloops and Moose Jaw, not to mention Hinton.

Mr. Janus Clark, of course, is dead. He was the innocent Scottwell, the kidnapping champion of Canadian politics, owned the race. It was the same when P. Stedman committed off the driving board while R. Stedfield finished the football.

Buy Street, as usual underestimating money but not politics, is making a mistake. (Despite these 103 seats, there is not a single Toronto strongman in the Ontario cabinet table.) The dog's breakfast party, while staggering, was back on western Canadian discontent with General Canada arrogance.

The thought of Tom Long to either kindergarten or actual future prime minister (which he has suddenly deceased) will turn off Lethbridge, Sudbourn and Kelowna.

SCRAP knew, correctly, that it would have to be broke into Ontario to break out of opposition and into government. This isn't the way. Buy Street has blown this one



Illustration by [unclear]

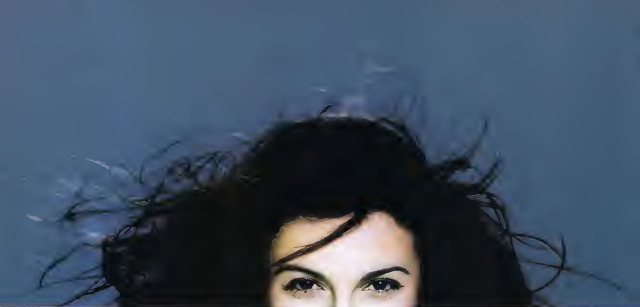
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